
APPENDIX F.2

***BOULDER COUNTY LETTER – FLOOD
HAZARD MAPPING REQUEST***



Transportation Department

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August 6, 2012

Mr. Jeff Arthur, P.E.
City of Boulder Public Works
P.O. Box 791
1739 Broadway
Boulder, CO 80306-0791

Subject: Lower Boulder Creek Flood Mapping – Third Party Review

Dear Jeff:

As agreed in our meeting this spring regarding the Lower Boulder Creek Flood mapping, we have conducted an independent review of both the city's and the property owners' analyses and mapping efforts. Last month staff from both the city and county received and reviewed the "Boulder County 3rd Party Review of Lower Boulder Creek Floodplain Mapping" Report, prepared by Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH Report), dated July 10, 2012. We appreciate your support of our efforts to better understand the implications of the City floodplain mapping to unincorporated Boulder County property owners.

This letter represents Boulder County's summary of the SEH Report and its conclusions and expectations moving forward as the City of Boulder prepares to present a final Boulder Creek Floodplain Mapping Report to the City Council and FEMA.

As noted in the SEH Report, the Anderson Consulting Engineers' (ACE) report and model are technically sound and meet engineering standards for floodplain delineation. Based on this primary conclusion by SEH, Boulder County gives its support to the City and the ACE Report moving forward on the condition that the following recommendations made by SEH in their Report and in follow-up discussions be incorporated prior to submitting the Floodplain Mapping Report to FEMA:

1. Determine if a flooding and/or spill condition exists at Valmont Road and 57th Street;
2. Remove the regulatory floodway from the Valmont Split, based on SEH's interpretation of FEMA's definitions for a "floodway" and a "watercourse" not supporting the need for a conveyance zone.
3. Designate the Valmont Split as an AO shallow flood zone, based on follow up discussions with SEH regarding flow characteristics and depths less than 3-feet.

I understand that city and county staff have sought input from a variety of experts and authorities regarding the application for a map revision and the proper way to delineate and/or show the floodway in unincorporated Boulder County. Based on the availability of new data and the requirement to delineate and regulate a 6-inch floodway, we are requesting that ACE's delineation of the 6-inch regulatory floodway remain in the unincorporated county areas, except as noted in Item 2 of the recommendations, above.

If the City is unable to incorporate the recommendations, the County will hold off on signing the MT-2 form and instead provide a letter requesting FEMA's opinion on the split flow floodway. This approach was recommended as an alternative by a member of the Michael Baker Junior Corporation for gaining resolution during the LOMR review.

Thanks again for your willingness to collaborate on this effort. Please contact me at (303) 441-3955 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerstle", written over a horizontal line.

George Gerstle
Director, Transportation Department

cc: Mike Thomas, P.E., County Engineer
Dave Webster, P.E., Water Resources Engineer
Bob Harberg, P.E., City of Boulder
Christie Coleman, P.E., City of Boulder
Greg Koch, P.E., Anderson Consulting Engineers
Dale Case, Land Use Director
Vince Porreca, Porreca & Associates
Curt Parker, P.E., Flatirons Surveying