



FEMA

March 21, 2023

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
Member, United States House of Representatives  
999 Fifth Avenue, Suite 290  
San Rafael, CA 94901

Dear Representative Huffman:

Thank you for your recent letter supporting the City of Ukiah's concerns related to FEMA's Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and the associated preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map in the areas of Orrs, Gibson and Doolin Creeks. I appreciate the opportunity to provide you an update.

When a preliminary flood map becomes available, some communities may disagree with the flood risk shown in certain areas. FEMA provides a 90-day appeal and comment period for new or revised base flood elevations, flood hazard zones, and floodway boundaries. Members of the community and the city have opportunities to submit evidence during this period demonstrating why they believe the preliminary maps have improperly mapped flood zones. However, the evidence must be scientifically or technically based.

FEMA received and is evaluating the City of Ukiah's comments and may request additional data if necessary. Once all concerns are resolved, FEMA will send a resolution letter to the City of Ukiah and, if appropriate, revise the preliminary flood map. After that, FEMA will finalize the updated flood map and send a Letter of Final Determination to each community, stating that the map will become effective in six months.

Flood risks change over time. Water flow and drainage patterns can change dramatically due to environmental changes, land use and other forces. Consequently, the likelihood of flooding can also change. Based on new digital mapping techniques, detailed, reliable, and current information on local community flood hazards is now available on updated flood hazard maps. These new preliminary flood maps present a better picture of the areas most likely to be impacted by flooding and provide a better foundation for making important building, land use, and flood insurance decisions.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Should you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at (510) 627-7100 or have a member of your staff contact Mr. Casey De Shong, Congressional Liaison, at (510) 627-7785.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Fenton".

Robert J. Fenton  
Regional Administrator