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FEMA

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**PLANNING BOARD
GRAFTON, MA**

July 19, 2010

Brook Padgett
Chairperson, Board of Selectmen
Town of Grafton
30 Providence Road
Town Hall
Grafton, Massachusetts 01519

RE: Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Report for Worcester County, Massachusetts (All Jurisdictions)

Dear Mr. Padgett:

Thank you for your interest and engagement with us through the floodmap revision process. As you recall, preliminary Worcester County, Massachusetts (All Jurisdictions) Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report were provided to your community on April 24, 2009. We recognize the impact the revised flood mapping could have on the community and have devoted close and serious attention to the matter. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a status update and describe next steps in the process.

As you are aware, the initial appeal period for Worcester County, Massachusetts (All Jurisdictions) opened on July 17, 2009, and closed on October 15, 2009. Over the past several months FEMA has reviewed your preliminary DFIRMs and has determined that there will be additional new or modified Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) in Worcester County, Massachusetts (All Jurisdictions). As a result, FEMA will open a new statutory 90-day appeal period for the new or modified BFEs.

On July 6, 2010, your community received a set of revised preliminary map panels reflecting additional new or modified BFEs in your community. As there were no new or modified BFEs on the panels enclosed under this transmittal, these panels are not eligible for a formal appeal. However, comments on all panels are encouraged throughout the map update process. You do not need to wait for the new appeal period to begin and can submit comments at any time.

The floodmap gives your community the means to mitigate flood risk through improved floodplain management policies and tactics and enables your citizens to mitigate their risk through implementing flood-resistant building techniques and/or buying flood insurance. These

maps can also play an important part of your community's disaster planning. It is important to FEMA that we collaborate with you to develop the most accurate flood maps possible. If you have any questions about the flood map update process, have suggested areas for improvement, or are interested in discussing the enclosed data, please contact Kerry Bogdan with FEMA Region I, at (617) 956-7576 or David Mendelsohn with FEMA Region I, at (617) 832-4713.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Goetz, Branch Chief
Risk Analysis Branch, Mitigation Division

cc: Richard Zingarelli, NFIP State Coordinator
Robert S. Berger, Building Inspector, Town of Grafton
Linda Dettloff, Conservation Agent, Town of Grafton
Bruce W. Spinney, III, Chairperson, Planning Board, Town of Grafton ✓
Toma Duhani, P.E., Director of Public Works, Town of Grafton
Stephen R. Bishop, Town Planner, Town of Grafton
Timothy McInerney, Town Administrator, Town of Grafton
John P. Carney, Chairperson, Zoning Board of Appeals, Town of Grafton
John S. Wilson, Co-Chairperson, Conservation Commission, Town of Grafton
Kerry Bogdan, FEMA Region I
David Mendelsohn, FEMA Region I
Tim Hillier, CDM
Laura Keating, Regional Service Center, FEMA Region I