



# SANTA ROSA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

6051 Old Bagdad Highway, Suite 202 | Milton, Florida 32583

BECKIE CATO  
Planning and Zoning Director  
beckiec@santarosa.fl.gov

RHONDA C. ROYALS  
Building Official  
rhondar@santarosa.fl.gov

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Mitigation Strategy Committee Members

FROM: Rhonda Royals, Building Official

SUBJECT: Preliminary Flood Map Products

DATE: July 25, 2016

On July 18, 2016, the Preliminary Flood Map Products were released to Santa Rosa County. The Preliminary Flood Map Products provides an early look at our community's projected risk to flood hazards identified by an in-progress flood hazard study. The data may include new or revised Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), Flood Insurance Study Reports (FIS) and FIRM Database.

- A FIRM is the official map that shows the specific flood hazard areas and the risk zones. The risk zones indicated on a FIRM provides a basis for establishing flood insurance coverage premium rates through the National Flood Insurance Program.
- The FIS reports provide background information on the analysis performed and provides more precise data on the flood elevations in a community.
- A FIRM Database is the collection of the digital data that is used in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) application for creating new FIRMS.

Santa Rosa County has a 30-day review period starting July 18th in order to identify any minor issues and address revisions accordingly.

On September 28, 2016, starting at 1:00 p.m., in the Public Services Media Room, the Northwest Florida Water Management District will coordinate a meeting to brief local officials on the preliminary flood map products, appeal and comment period, ordinance adoption process, and to answer any questions or concerns our local officials may have.

Following the local official's Community Coordination meeting, the preliminary DFIRM, FIS and FIRM Database will be presented to the general public during an open house from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., at the same location. Another open house meeting for the general public will be held on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Tiger Point Center from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Both of these meetings will be an opportunity for the general public to review the information and to ask specific questions.

A 90-day public comment period (Appeals Period) is planned to occur sometime between November 2016 and April 2017. This appeals period will allow citizens an opportunity to appeal changes in flood zones, floodways and based flood elevations based on scientific or technical issues.

The start of our 6-month compliance period is expected to occur between May and July 2017. A letter of final determination will be issued by FEMA stating that the preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps will become effective in six (6) months.

The effective date of the new Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Base Flood Elevations is planned to occur sometime between November 2017 and January 2018. Santa Rosa County must adopt a compliant floodplain management ordinance by the effective date of the new maps.