

December 10, 2019

Press Release

Berrien County Residents Invited to Attend Coastal Flood Map Open House

Members of the public can review new preliminary floodplain maps for the Lake Michigan shoreline and talk to experts about how the maps can impact communities and property owners

BENTON HARBR, Mich. – Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will host a Flood Map Information Open House on Jan. 14 for Lake Michigan shoreline communities of Berrien County. The open house will provide residents with an opportunity to review a recently completed preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and its accompanying preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).

The FIS and the FIRMs provide base flood (also known as the 1-percent-annual-chance event) information, designate areas that are subject to significant flood hazards within the shoreline areas of the county and offer information that public officials may use when permitting development in the floodplain.

Representatives from various local, state, and federal agencies will provide the most current information about flood risk, flood insurance, floodplain development regulations, and the process for floodplain mapping within Berrien County. The newly prepared preliminary floodplain maps will be on display. Once the maps become effective, they will be used as the basis for flood insurance ratings as well as local flood protection regulations adopted under the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA also intends that they be used as tools to assist planning processes and outreach efforts to quickly respond to and recover from future events. Details for the Berrien County meeting are as follow:

WHAT: Berrien County – Public Open House meeting
WHEN: Tuesday, January 14, 2020, from 4:30-6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Benton Harbor Public Library
213 E. Wall St.
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Property owners, Realtors, lenders, and insurance agents are urged to attend and take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about coastal flood risk and hazard mitigation within their community. Digital files of the Preliminary FIRMs and FIS report can be downloaded at www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata. For more information, contact the FEMA News Desk at FEMA-R5-News-Desk@fema.dhs.gov.

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