

**TOWN OF FAIRFAX  
STAFF REPORT**

**Date:** August 1, 2012  
**To:** Mayor and Members of the Town Council  
**From:** Councilmember O'Neil  
**Subject:** Report on FEMA Flood Map Update meeting, impact on property owners and discussion of public outreach

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended the Town Council discuss ways to continue to inform the public of the progress of the FEMA Flood Map Update and the impact on property owners in the newly designated floodway.

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

FEMA officials conducted a well attended public meeting at Drake High School on June 28<sup>th</sup> about the drafts of the new flood zone maps for the Ross Valley. Since the new maps could toughen building restrictions and raise flood insurance rates for some residents, it is important to inform our residents of the potential impact of the new maps.

The new maps designate "floodways" that highlight hazard zones, including areas that have a one percent chance of flooding each year. Homeowners living in such flood zones are required to purchase flood insurance and will likely face building restrictions when the maps are finalized.

The maps presented on June 28<sup>th</sup> were working versions of preliminary maps. Once the preliminary maps are finished, there will be a 90-day appeal period. After that, the maps will be finalized and will become effective six months from the day of a notification letter.

There will be another public meeting, probably in October, when the maps are finalized.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The cost of additional mailings, if requested, or any other type of outreach