



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

November 30, 2010

Dear :

The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission is currently updating its countywide flood problem areas inventory for the North Mill Creek / Dutch Gap Canal Watershed as a part of the development of a watershed plan. We are requesting your assistance with this update via this letter, which provides the following information about the inventory update:

- background on the flood problem areas inventory;
- the need for an update;
- what information is requested; and
- the local benefits of an updated inventory

Background

The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) conducted an inventory to identify flood problem areas in Lake County in 1995. More than 300 flood damage areas located throughout the county were inventoried. Flood problem areas were identified primarily from a combination of flood damage reports and anecdotal information provided by communities, homeowner associations and elected officials.

SMC used the flood problem areas inventory to develop a draft countywide flood hazard mitigation plan (FHMP) in 1999, and incorporated its flood mitigation recommendations into the County's All Hazard Mitigation plan. A few examples of flood mitigation projects undertaken by SMC and others in recent years include:

- SMC's buyout program for repetitively flood damaged structures at Sturm Subdivision, Williams Park, Gurnee, and several other communities;
- Site-specific flood mitigation planning for Gurnee, North Chicago, Diamond Lake Drain, and the Pekara Subdivision; and
- Various drainage improvement and flood storage projects funded by communities, the county, SMC and the state.

Need for update

Since the flood problem areas inventory is now more than 10 years old, and a number of mitigation projects have been undertaken in the interim period, the inventory needs to be updated to reflect changes in flood damage risk so that it is appropriately addressed by the North Mill Creek / Dutch Gap Canal Watershed Plan. SMC needs your community's help in updating the inventory. To that end, we request that a representative of your community determine if there are any flood problem areas in your community that should be added to the inventory or updated in the inventory. There are two worksheets attached to this document: a New Flood Problem area worksheet to add a flood problem area not previously inventoried and a Flood Problem Area Inventory Update sheet to reflect any changes that may have occurred in a location previously delineated as a flood problem area. (Copy these sheets if you need

Flood Problem Areas (FPA) Inventory Update

LAKE COUNTY FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Date: _____ **Community:** _____ **FPA #:** _____

| INSTRUCTION | FLOOD PROBLEM AREA* UPDATE INFORMATION |
|--|--|
| Subdivision name, street intersection etc. | Location name: |
| If the flood damage location is different than the area mapped, please mark the map with the correct approximate boundary of the FPA, describe and provide reason for change. | Location description: |
| If the primary type or cause of flood damage is incorrect as shown on the map, please update to reflect whether it is caused by overbank flooding, located in depressional area, local drainage system is insufficient, sanitary sewer backup or septic failure. | Type of flooding: Flood source (if known): |
| Number of buildings damaged. Indicate building use if <u>not</u> single-family residence. | Buildings damaged at this site: Building use: |
| Names of streets where flooding results in road damage or loss of access. | Streets flooded: |
| Indicate whether flooding damages basement, 1 st floor, garage/outbuilding, crawl space, septic system, utilities, roadway, causes erosion, or limits access. | Known damage level: |
| Include names of police or fire stations, schools, water or sanitary treatment facilities or other public utility providers, and nursing homes in FPA. | Critical facilities: |
| Approximately how often does the FPA flood: ≥annually; 2-5 years; 6-10 years; 11-50 years; or 51+ years. | Frequency of occurrence: |

New Flood Problem Areas (FPA) Inventory

| | | | |
|---------------------|--|------------------|--------------|
| DATE | | COMMUNITY | |
| CONTACT NAME | | TITLE | PHONE |

PROBLEM AREA DESCRIPTION

| | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Location Name: (subdivision name, street intersection, etc.) | | Property owner: (if known) | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|

Is Property located in:

Drainage District Yes No Name of Drainage District:
 Park District Yes No Name of Park District:

Problem Description (Damage-Causing or Nuisance)

What do you feel was the cause of the flooding? Check all that apply.

Storm sewer back up Sanitary sewer backup
 Sump pump failure/power failure Saturated plug or standpipe
 Standing water next to house Other:
 Depressional Poor Drainage
 Overbank flooding from Dutch Gap, Hastings Creek or North Mill Creek.

Has the flooding resulted in: Sewer Backup Yes No Septic Failure Yes No

DAMAGE POTENTIAL / KNOWN DAMAGE LEVEL (During a 100-Year Flood)

Number & Type of Buildings (indicate building use if not residential):

Critical Facilities (include names of police or fire stations, schools, water sanitary treatment facilities, public utility providers and nursing homes):

New Flood Problem Areas (FPA) Inventory

Street, Highways, Bridges with damage or loss of access:

HISTORICAL FLOOD DAMAGE (Confidential Information)

| Month/Yr. | Depth | Frequency of Occurrence | # Bldgs. | \$ Damage | Other |
|-----------|-------|-------------------------|----------|-----------|-------|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Other known damage level (such as flooding damages to basements, 1st floor, garage/outbuilding, crawl space, septic systems, utilities, roadway, erosion, limited access, etc.):

PLANS FOR THE AREA

Flood Control Projects

Community/Neighborhood Plans

OTHER HAZARDS (e.g. , soil constraints, hazardous materials in area or upstream, erosion)

OTHER DATA SOURCES (persons or studies where other information may be found)

New Flood Problem Areas (FPA) Inventory

more than one.) If a written description is not adequate to describe the problem, we ask that you send a map outlining the affected area. A flood problem area is defined as follows:

Flood Problem Area:

A “flood problem area” is composed of one or more structures in a geographical area that are damaged by the same primary source/cause of flooding. (There may be secondary sources/causes that affect an area also. Please also note these under the “type of flooding” section if they are known.) Road flooding that results in damage to infrastructure, loss of critical access or is a threat to safety should also be included within or as a flood problem area. Known health and safety hazards such as septic failure, secondary sanitary sewer backup, erosion, water pollution from hazardous materials etc. should also be described on the worksheet. Areas that only have “nuisance” flooding should not be included in the inventory. “Nuisance” flooding includes yard or open space flooding alone, where there is no resulting damage to a structure, loss of access, or loss of septic or utilities.

Information request

Please designate the most flood-knowledgeable person or persons in your community to fill out the information requested for the update. Within the scope of this update, SMC would like to clarify whether any areas need to be added to the inventory; primary and secondary sources or causes of flooding; the boundaries of the flood damage area; the approximate frequency of flooding at these sites; and what if any flood mitigation activities have occurred to reduce flood damage in these flood problem areas. In addition to providing a completed flood problem areas worksheet, we request you send a map depicting the affected area.

Local benefits

An update of the local flood problem areas in the inventory will increase your opportunities for reducing flood damage in your community. SMC uses the updated flood problem inventory for evaluating priority locations for future flood mitigation projects in Lake County.

In addition to reducing flood damage in known flood problem areas, the updated inventory will be useful to community Enforcement Officers in making determinations about adequate downstream capacity in proximity to flood problem areas when issuing Watershed Development Permits. In this way, the updated flood problem area inventory will help in making sure that flood damage at existing sites is not exacerbated by nearby development projects, and will hopefully prevent flood damage as a consequence of future development.

Many thanks for your assistance in updating the inventory. ***Please return*** your worksheet(s) with a corresponding community map(s) to SMC ***by December 31, 2010***. If you have any questions about the inventory, contact Patty Werner at 847-377-7717.

Sincerely,



Patty Werner, AICP, CFM
Planning Supervisor

Attachments