

## Information on Changes in Cypress Creek Watershed Flood Plain Locations Now Available for 90-Day Public Review / Appeal

When FEMA developed new flood plain maps for properties located in the Cypress Creek based on computer modeling done after Hurricane Allison, the Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition (CCFCC) undertook what became a comprehensive technical review of the information. Beginning in 2004, this identified a number of computer predicted creek behaviors that had significant deviation from what had actually occurred during historical flooding in specific areas in the western part of what is commonly called the "Upper Cypress Creek Watershed". These findings were shared with the Harris County Flood Control District which acknowledged the need for further review. This kicked off a lengthy, collaborative joint study necessitating intensive engineering evaluations. The result was revised computer models that now satisfactorily calculate predicted creek behavior, flood locations, depths and flow throughout the watershed thereby outdating the information used for the current flood maps adopted and published by FEMA in June 2008.

Do you believe the information for your subdivision and/or private residence property as shown on the 2008 Flood Insurance Rate Maps

(FIRMs) adopted by FEMA in 2008 is correct? This may have changed because of extensive remapping of the Cypress Creek Watershed properties due to inaccuracies in FEMA computer modeling used to calculate these 2008 maps. If so, it may result in changes to the cost you will pay for your flood insurance.

More information behind this development can easily be obtained by reading the "Look Upstream" article "*Seeking Solutions To Tough Problems*", published in February 2010 and available on our website. You can also review the "newly revised" maps which are available at the Harris County Engineering Permit Office using a link on the Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition website, [www.ccfcc.org](http://www.ccfcc.org). This link has just been added on the home page (upper left corner under the "Look Upstream" heading).

During a brief period beginning in mid-January and ending 90 days later in April you have the opportunity to file an appeal or a protest if you believe your building slab is above the 100-year flood plain elevation. An "appeal" addresses the technical accuracy and requires engineering involvement. A "protest" covers basically everything else. Remember,

the flood zone designation on these maps signifies the degree of risk that your property will flood. This in turn is a primary element in the amount of the premium charged for your flood insurance.

Whether you elect to appeal or protest the information, prescribed documentation must be filed within the 90-day appeal period. We will be contacting FEMA for instructions on the procedure to be followed and when received will make the information available on the CCFCC website. Additional information can be found by using the Harris County Engineering Permit Office website, [www.eng.hctx.net/permits](http://www.eng.hctx.net/permits), and/or calling Dan Mushen, Harris County Infrastructure Dept, telephone 713-956-3017 or e-mail [Dan.mushen@hepid.org](mailto:Dan.mushen@hepid.org),

Note: Funding the cost of CCFCC research carried out by professional engineering and academic experts depends almost entirely on voluntary donations from the watershed's residents through their municipal utility districts and home owner associations. All contributions are tax deductible.

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