December 22, 2014

The Honorable Judy Pfueger
Chair, Trinity County Board of Supervisors
11 Court Street
Room 230
Weaverville, California 96093

Dear Chair Pfueger:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is pleased to present your community with the enclosed revised Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panels and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for Trinity County, California for your review and comment. This map revision is in response to a Trinity County request to modify Base (1-percent-annual-chance) Flood Elevations (BFEs) and update the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) of the Trinity River, Browns Creek, Canyon Creek, Grass Valley Creek, Indian Creek, Reading Creek, Rush Creek, and Weaver Creek. We have enclosed only those Preliminary FIRM panels (06105C0793F, 06105C0794F, 06105C0813F, 06105C0814F, 06105C0818F, 06105C1002F, 06105C1006F, 06105C1008F, 06105C1009F, 06105C1017F, 06105C1034F, 06105C1035F, 06105C1036F, 06105C1037F, 06105C1038F, 06105C1039F, 06105C1041F, 06105C1042F, 06105C1043F, 06105C1044F, 06105C1052F, 06105C1053F, 06105C1054F, 06105C1056F, 06105C1058F, 06105C1061F, and 06105C1065F) for which revised flood hazard information was prepared.

We are sending the revised Preliminary copy at this time to give your community an opportunity to review them. Additionally, in an effort to assist you in circulating the information, FEMA has posted digital copies of the revised FIRM and FIS report materials online. To view Preliminary Flood Hazard Data, visit http://www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata. We will contact your community shortly to schedule a formal community coordination meeting (a “Consultation Coordination Officer [CCO]” Meeting) to discuss the revised flood hazard information, ordinance adoption, and other frequently asked questions and concerns. In the meantime, we encourage you to circulate the enclosed copy as widely as possible among elected officials, staff, and other individuals or organizations in the community that would have an interest in the Preliminary FIRM panels and FIS report, so that they will have the opportunity to review them thoroughly before the formal community coordination meeting. The review period provides community officials and citizens in the affected communities with an opportunity to identify changes or corrections to non-technical information, such as corporate limits, road names, and stream names on the Preliminary FIRM panels or in the FIS report.

www.fema.gov
Comments may be sent to: Juliette Hayes, Risk Analysis Branch Chief
FEMA Region IX
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200
Oakland, California 94607

Please submit comments (digital format such as shapefiles preferred) no later than 30 days from the date of this letter. All comments and changes received during this review period will be incorporated, as appropriate, before the FIRM and FIS report become effective.

To assist your community in maintaining the FIRM, we have enclosed a revised Summary of Map Actions (SOMA) to document previous Letters of Map Change (LOMCs) (i.e., Letters of Map Amendment [LOMAs], Letters of Map Revision [LOMRs]) that will be superseded when the FIRM becomes effective. Information on LOMCs is presented in the following four categories: (1) LOMCs for which results have been included on the FIRM; (2) LOMCs for which results could not be shown on the FIRM because of scale limitations or because the LOMC issued had determined that the lots or structures involved were outside the SFHA as shown on the FIRM; (3) LOMCs for which results have not been included on the FIRM because the flood hazard information on which the original determinations were based is being superseded by new flood hazard information; and (4) LOMCs issued for multiple lots or structures where the determination for one or more of the lots or structures cannot be revalidated through an administrative process like the LOMCs in Category 2 above.

LOMCs in Category 2 will be revalidated through a single letter that reaffirms the validity of a previously issued LOMC; the letter will be sent to your community shortly before the effective date of the FIRM and will become effective one day after the FIRM becomes effective.

For the LOMCs listed in Category 4, we will review the data previously submitted for the LOMA or LOMR request and issue a new determination for the affected properties after the FIRM becomes effective upon request.

After the CCO Meeting, we will initiate a statutory 90-day appeal period for certain communities within Trinity County. A statutory 90-day appeal period is required when FEMA adds or modifies BFEs, base flood depths, SFHAs, flood zone designations, or regulatory floodways within a community, as shown on the Preliminary FIRM panels. If your community is identified as requiring an appeal period, we will send you a letter approximately 2 weeks before the start of the 90-day appeal period to detail the appeal process. The letter will forward information regarding notifications to be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and local newspaper(s) and will provide the first and second publication dates. The appeal period will start on the second publication date. Additional information concerning the 90-day appeal period will be provided during the CCO Meeting.

After the 30-day review and 90-day appeal periods have ended and we have addressed all comments/appeals, we will initiate final preparation of the FIRM panels and FIS report. The revised FIRM and FIS report for your community will become effective approximately 9 to 11 months later. Before the effective date, you will be notified in writing of the official FIRM panels and FIS report effective date and asked to adopt floodplain ordinances or modify existing ordinances as necessary that correspond with the new FIRM panels or FIS report. If you or other community officials have any questions regarding floodplain ordinances, you may raise them with our FEMA Regional IX Natural Hazards Specialist, Xing Liu, either by telephone (510) 627-7267 or by email at Xing.Liu@fema.dhs.gov, or you may discuss those issues with your State National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator, Mr. James Eto of the California Department of Water Resources, at (916) 574-1409 or by email at www.fema.gov
Several months before the effective date, we will mail one set of printed copies of the finalized FIRM panels and FIS report and digital copies of the map and report products.

Your community’s comments on the Preliminary FIRM panels and FIS report are an important part of our review process, and we will consider them carefully before we publish the FIRM panels and FIS report in their final form. If you have any questions regarding the Preliminary copies of the FIRM panels and FIS report, please contact Juliette Hayes of FEMA Region IX by telephone at (510) 627-7211 or by email at Juliette.Hayes@fema.dhs.gov. If you have general questions about mapping issues, please call our FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX), toll free, at (877) 336-2627 (877-FEMA MAP) or e-mail our FMIX staff at FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com.

Sincerely,

Luis Rodriguez, P.E., Chief
Engineering Management Branch
Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration

Enclosures:

- Revised Preliminary FIS report
- Revised Preliminary FIRM panels
- Revised Preliminary Summary of Map Actions

cc: Rick Tippett, Director of Transportation, Trinity County (without enclosures)
James Eto, State NFIP Coordinator, Department of Water Resources (without enclosures)
Representative Jared Huffman, District 2 Office (without enclosures)