

April 25, 2016

## **Progress Report on Flood Damage Prevention**

*(Note: This report is distributed to the local media, posted on the City of Morgan City Website and made available for review at the Planning & Zoning Department, 509 Second Street)*

### **BACKGROUND**

The original Flood Ordinance of 1961 was amended in 1978 to reflect the criteria set forth by the adoption of the participation in the National Flood Insurance Program governed by FEMA. Its purpose was to promote the public health, safety, and welfare and to minimize losses due to flood conditions in specific areas by provisions. Methods of reducing flood losses included items such as, restrict or prohibit uses of facilities and activities in times of flooding that may increase flood heights and velocities; control the alteration of natural floodplains; control filling, grading, dredging, and other development which may increase flood damage; prevent or regulate the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert floodwaters or may increase flood hazards to other lands.

Previous updates have been in the form of regulation through the building permitting or through the FIRM mapping in the process of development, and providing a copy of this to the administration. It is now a requirement to update through an annual progress report as part of the City's involvement in the CRS program which provides the premium reduction benefit to the residents and business owners in the City of Morgan City.

The implementation and review of the ordinance on a daily basis applies to all areas of special flood hazard within the jurisdiction of the city. These areas are identified by virtue of FEMA and the "Flood Insurance Study for the City of Morgan City" dated May 20, 1996, along with the accompanying flood insurance rate map (FIRM).

### **ADMINISTRATION**

The Planning & Zoning Director is appointed as the floodplain administrator to administer and implement the provisions of this article and other appropriate sections of 44 CFR pertaining to floodplain management. His duties include and not limited to: 1) maintain all records pertaining to the ordinance, 2) review permit applications to ensure applicability to flood criteria, 3) review, approve, deny applications for development, 4) interpret as needed the location of the boundaries of the areas of special flood hazards, 5) notify adjacent communities and state agencies prior to any alteration or relocation of a watercourse and ensure that the flood carrying capacity is maintained, 6) obtain, review and utilize any base flood elevation data as needed, 7) prepare any FIRM amendments by the proper LOMA or LOMR.

*Status: The Director has implemented all procedures as set forth in the City of Morgan City Codes to regulate through the permitting process, all of the floodplain issues pertaining to the various flood zones within the jurisdictional boundaries. The Director also manages the zoning boundaries and strictly enforces the setback regulations in an effort to enforce the "no adverse impact" regulation, which reduces the stress of rainwater runoff to neighboring properties. The flood hazard reduction in all zones within the jurisdictional boundaries are also strictly enforced for new construction, additions and alterations, and accessory buildings by virtue of the enforcement of the Building codes adopted by the City. All of these records for these issues are maintained on file within the Planning & Zoning Department.*

## **OTHER ENFORCEMENT**

As part of an ongoing enforcement and public awareness program, in part with the National Flood Insurance Program, the City provides flood protection information to residents through a variety of means, and participates in programs for that purpose.

*Status:*

- 1. The City library maintains flood protection reference materials and provides handouts to the public.*
- 2. The City distributes flood protection materials via the utility bill billing system, annually.*
- 3. The Floodplain Administrator publishes flood protection and NFIP information via the local newspaper annually.*
- 4. The Planning & Zoning Dept. works with the local Real estate agencies, Insurance agents and Lending institutions, as to the procedures and protocol of the floodplain.*
- 5. The Planning & Zoning Department provides flood zone administration to the local insurance agencies and developers.*
- 6. The Public Works Director is developing a new Stormwater control ordinance.*
- 7. The City is still currently under appeal for the new DFIRM's released in 2008.*
- 8. The City will be updating some Ordinances through the Comprehensive Resiliency Grant received, including the Flood Prevention Ordinance.*
- 9. The P & Z Dept also works with operators of Manufactured Home Parks and provides up-to-date information on regulations and City codes.*
- 10. Through regular patrols, non-compliant uses are detected and eradicated.*

## **UPDATES**

The City is currently working toward adopting a preliminary map dated June 30, 2015. Some levee systems have been targeted for re-certification. Information about the status of the program can be secured from the St. Mary Levee District (985/380-5500).

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, we continue to monitor flood damage prevention in conjunction with all improvements through the enforcement of past and present codes. With the economic growth felt by the community and the adoption of new building codes, it has been an ongoing effort to maintain the integrity of not only the compliance with building codes, but also with the compliance of the floodplain and elevation standards. The city will continue to provide and assist the public in the protection of flooding through the programs in place and future programs to be made available.

Respectfully,

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