



Consulting
Engineers and
Scientists

January 14, 2021
GEI Project No. 1606400

{ Affected property owner name }
{ Affected property owner mailing address }
{ Affected property owner mailing address }
City of Merced, CA. 953XX

Re: Notification of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) for Fahrens, Cottonwood and Parkinson Creeks within the City of Merced, CA

Dear Mr. Mr./Ms./Mr. and Mrs. { Affected property owner },

The Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for a community depicts a floodplain, which is an area that has been determined to be subject to a 1% (100-year) or greater chance of flooding in any given year. The FEMA designated floodway is the portion of the floodplain that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water-surface elevation by more than a designated height of one-foot. However, if fill is placed within the 1% chance floodplain, the fill shall be mitigated to the proposed base flood elevations unless approved by the city. The proposed effective FIRM will be used to determine the flood insurance rates and to help the community with floodplain management.

GEI Consultants submitted the LOMR on behalf of Bellevue Ranch to the City of Merced Public Works and FEMA to update the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panels 240 (Merced County), 426, 427, 428 and 429 for Fahrens, Cottonwood and Parkinson Creeks based on updated topographic data, hydrology and hydraulic models.

The proposed LOMR floodplain will be updated within the following limits:

- a. Fahrens Creek downstream extent will tie into the effective FEMA floodplain near the confluence of Cottonwood Creek;
- b. Fahrens Creek upstream extent will be located north of the City of Merced boundary within the unincorporated area of Merced County near the Merced Golf Club;
- c. Cottonwood Creek east of G Street also impacted by the Tower lateral and the Sixmile drain
- d. Parkinson Creek north of the City of Merced within the unincorporated area of Merced County.

Both the City of Merced Public Works and FEMA reviewed and approved the LOMR in accordance with National Flood Insurance Program regulation 65.7(b)(1) to update the 1% annual chance (100- year) floodplain and floodway for Fahrens Creek and tributaries through the City of Merced.

As part of the hydrologic and hydraulic model results, the effective Flood Insurance Study (FIS) was reviewed and revised using the current topography and land use data. The study determined the effective floodplain and regulatory floodway for Fahrens and Cottonwood Creeks within the study limits was not accurate. The proposed LOMR will shift and correct the errors and accurately portray the new 1% chance floodplain and floodway. Due to the more accurate topographic data, the new flood elevations throughout the project reach will remain consistent to the current effective FEMA FIRM, but the floodplain and floodway extents were adjusted to be correctly delineated to best available topographic data.

The overbank floodplain on the east side of Fahrens Creek between Cottonwood Creek and Bellevue Road will be removed and the floodway will be properly shifted off the property. The Fahrens Creek floodplain north of Bellevue Road is consistent with the current effective FIS floodplain but the high school structure and the property north will be removed because they are elevated above the 1% chance flood elevation. New base flood elevations for Parkinson Creek will be shown just north of the City of Merced jurisdictional boundary.

Maps and detailed analysis of the flood hazard revision can be reviewed at the City Hall at 678 West 18th Street, 2nd Floor, Merced, CA or on the City of Merced Public Works website at <https://www.cityofmerced.org/departments/public-works>.

If you have any questions or concerns about the proposed project mapping or the effect on your property, you may contact Chris Ferrari P.E., CFM at (916) 631-4516 (office) or through email at cferrari@geiconsultants.com.

Sincerely,

GEI CONSULTANTS, INC.



Chris A. Ferrari, P.E.
Senior Project Manager

c: Michael Beltran (City of Merced Floodplain Manager)
Naresh Balijia (FEMA Review Consultant)
Meghan LeCaptain (FEMA Review Consultant)