



NEWS RELEASE

St. Charles County Government

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Ehlmann Sends Strong Letter To FEMA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Steve Ehlmann, County Executive, (636) 949-7520

ST. CHARLES COUNTY – St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann sent a strong letter to the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency on Tuesday, July 28, objecting to the process and the findings of the preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

“Let me suggest that the presentation of these maps at this time creates an immense problem with the credibility of the entire regulatory scheme,” Ehlmann said in his letter to FEMA. “The magnitude of the proposed changes, if correct, confirm the charges by some that the maps we have been forced to adopt over the years have been flawed.

“Property owners are tired of being told that they can use the ‘best available information’ if they disagree with the maps. Only large commercial concerns and the gaming company can afford to do that, not the small farmer who wants to build a new barn.”

FEMA recently published new flood plain maps and base flood elevations for St. Charles County. These new maps and base flood elevations become the basis for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). FEMA regulations provide an opportunity for residents affected by these new elevations and maps to submit comments and appeals to St. Charles County, which will then be forwarded to FEMA. Comments or Appeals must be sent to County Executive Steve Ehlmann, Executive Office Building, 100 North Third Street, Suite 318, St. Charles, Mo. 63301 or by email at executive@sccmo.org by Oct. 1, 2009.

The sole basis for an appeal is having knowledge or information indicating that the proposed base flood elevation determinations are scientifically or

technically incorrect. Appeals must present scientific or technical data intended to negate or contradict FEMA's findings for the base flood elevations. Any other concerns regarding the preliminary flood plain maps will be also be accepted and treated as comments.

The new elevations and new maps are available for viewing at the County's Department of Community Development at 201 North Second Street, Suite 420, St. Charles, Mo., 63301, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, contact Steve Lauer or Ellie Marr with the St. Charles County Department of Community Development at 636-949-7335.

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