



# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

**JUN 23 2003**

Mr. David Webb  
City Engineer  
Department of Public Works  
City of Huntington Beach  
200 Main Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Dear Mr. Webb:

This is in regard to a letter dated April 29, 2003, from Mr. Mark D. Bixby, Neighbors for Wintersburg Wetland Restoration, regarding the proposed Shea Homes Parkside Estates development along East Garden Grove-Wintersburg (EGGW) Channel. In his letter, Mr. Bixby stated that the flood study submitted in support of the Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) dated June 6, 2002 (Case No. 01-09-393R), did not take into account silt accumulation and vegetation in the channel. With his April 29 letter, Mr. Bixby submitted pictures of the EGGW Channel from the Graham Street bridge to the Gothard Street bridge that show the accumulated silt and vegetation. He stated that if the Shea Parkside flood study did not consider this silt and vegetation, then the study underestimated the capacity of the channel and the flood hazards in this area and should be revised.

As stated in the June 6 CLOMR, Paragraph 60.3(b)(7) of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations (copy enclosed) states that communities must assure that the flood-carrying capacity within an altered or relocated portion of any watercourse is maintained. This provision is incorporated into the existing floodplain management regulations for the City of Huntington Beach. It is the community's responsibility to maintain the channels within its jurisdiction; therefore, if silt and vegetation are a problem in the EGGW Channel, the activities required to remove potential blockages should be part of the community's maintenance plan for the channel. The data submitted to support the June 6 CLOMR do not need to be revised at this time. However, existing channel conditions should be incorporated into an updated hydraulic model to support a Letter of Map Revision request if the required maintenance has not been performed.

If you have any questions regarding the flood hazard mapping for your community, please contact Mr. Max Yuan of my staff in Washington, DC, either by telephone at (202) 646-3843 or by facsimile at (202) 646-4596.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Jean Pajak".

Mary Jean Pajak, P.E., Acting Chief  
Hazard Study Branch  
Federal Insurance and  
Mitigation Administration

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Connie Boardman, Mayor  
City of Huntington Beach

The Honorable Thomas W. Wilson,  
Chairman, Orange County Board  
of Supervisors

Mr. Sara Bavan, Manager  
Flood Control Planning  
County of Orange

Mr. Ronald C. Metzler, Vice President  
Planning & Development  
Shea Homes

Mr. Herb I. Nakasone, Manager  
Program Development Division  
Public Facilities & Resources Department  
County of Orange

Mr. Neil M. Jordan, P.E., Senior Engineer  
Exponent Failure Analysis Associates

Mr. Mark D. Bixby  
Neighbors for Wintersburg  
Wetlands Restoration