



JEFFERSON COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Date: April 17, 2019

From: Patty Charnas, SEPA Responsible Official *PC*

To: Project File – MLA19-00010/ZON19-00005

Re: SEPA DNS – Retain (and Review of Public Comments)

Summary and Retain DNS

Jefferson County is retaining the April 3, 2019 nonproject Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) for MLA19-00010/ZON19-00005, which updates the Jefferson County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (as codified in Chapter 15.15 JCC). This proposal repeals the existing Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and replaces it with an update that is consistent with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program requirements for unincorporated Jefferson County. On April 3, 2019, the County noticed a nonproject action and issued a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) DNS. The comment period was open from April 3, 2019 to April 17, 2019.

Review of Public Comments

Jefferson County received one written comment regarding the proposed update to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. This comment was received from a local action group and the comment noted that FEMA determined base flood elevations (BFEs) on historical data, not on future flood projections. Therefore, the action group recommended that the ordinance require applicants to meet a BFE of at least 2 feet in the ordinance update (rather than the minimum 1-foot above BFE currently required by FEMA). Since FEMA provides financial incentives in flood insurance rates for building above the required 1-foot minimum, Jefferson County will not be revising the ordinance to require property owners to exceed the current BFE requirements specified by FEMA. After a review of the public comment, the existing ordinance language, and the proposed ordinance language, Jefferson County finds that no revisions are necessary to the DNS and opts to retain its April 3, 2019 DNS.