

**JEFFERSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**CONSENT AGENDA REQUEST**

**TO:** Board of Commissioners (BoCC)

**FROM:** Patty Charnas, DCD Director  
Donna Frostholt, Associate Planner

**DATE:** April 29, 2019

**RE:** Request to Publish Notice of Public Hearing and Establish Public Comment Period on Proposed Updates to Jefferson County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

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**STATEMENT OF ISSUE:**

The purpose of this request is to have the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approve a notice for a May 13, 2019 public hearing on the above referenced item. The legal notice would be published in the May 1 and May 8, 2019 editions of The Leader.

The updated Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance requires local legislative action by the BoCC. The proposed revisions require public hearing per the Jefferson County Code (JCC). The attached notice begins a public comment period that would begin with the May 1, 2019 notice publication and conclude at the end of the May 13, 2019 BoCC public hearing.

**ANALYSIS:**

Jefferson County participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). JCC Title 15 (Building) Chapter 15.15 (Flood Damage Prevention) is the principle area of applicable local code and, as such, resides outside of development standards implementing the county's comprehensive plan. Review by the Jefferson County Planning Commission is not required. County participation in the NFIP program results in the federal government making insurance available to Jefferson County property owners as financial protection against future losses of buildings and structures. To remain in the NFIP, the BoCC must adopt mandatory updates to its Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance by June 7, 2019 or risk decertification by FEMA. The updated ordinance as drafted complies with all FEMA requirements. Substantial coordination and communication with officials from FEMA and from the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) NFIP State Coordinator have occurred to assist with properly updating this code. Completing local legislative adoption before the June 7, 2019 deadline will allow for formal review and approval by the involved federal and state offices namely, FEMA and Ecology.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Funds for staff to work on revisions to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance will come from the General Fund.

Funds to review applications for compliance with the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance will come from fees paid by applicants.

The federal government requires compliance with NFIP standards. Failure to adopt a revised Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance prior to June 7, 2019 may result in negative financial effects on Jefferson County property owners in which some or all of the property occurs within a Special Flood Hazard Area.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

DCD recommends that the BoCC approve the notice for public hearing on May 13, 2019 hearing.

**REVIEWED BY:**

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County Administrator

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Date