



95-320 SEP 9 1995

A graphic illustration of several waves crashing, rendered in a dark blue silhouette style. Below the waves, the words "FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT" are written in large, bold, white capital letters on a dark blue background.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
VOLUME 13, NO. 46 NEWSLETTER WINTER 1995

FLOODS IN SOUTHEAST TEXAS FEMA Disaster FEMA-1041-DR

After the big rains of Mid-October 1994, thirty-eight counties in southeast Texas were declared disaster areas by President Clinton at the request of Governor Ann Richards. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) named the disaster **FEMA-1041-DR**. Shortly thereafter, State and Federal personnel set up their emergency relief offices in the communities to assess the damage and render assistance. How can you as the Floodplain Administrator (FPA) for your community prepare for and assist with the information that will be requested by the staff following a disaster? Here is what you should immediately do:

- ◆ Tour your community.
- ◆ Document affected areas.
- ◆ Estimate the amount of damage and cost.
- ◆ Publicize to your community that permits will have to be retained for repairs of structures.
- ◆ Review and familiarize yourself with the Substantial Damage/Improvement Criteria before you start issuing permits to repair damaged structures.
- ◆ Review your community's Hazard Mitigation Plan.
(If don't have one, now is the time to quickly formulate one if your community expects to get any Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds.)

Remember that FEMA will conduct Community Assistance Contacts (CAC) and Visits (CAV) after the flood to remind you of the substantial damage/improvement criteria. More importantly, they will not only assess your understanding of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Regulations that your community adopted to participate in the NFIP, but also your past permitting practices. The availability of disaster relief and hazard mitigation funds to your community could be impacted by their assessment of your community's past performance. We are happy to announce that 95% of the communities that were visited received favorable assessments.

Keep up the Good Work Texas FPA's!!

U OF NT DEP. LIBRARIES 76203

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE	PAGE
Floods In Southeast Texas.....	1
Spring Floods Will Be Here Shortly.....	2
TNRCC Floodplain Management Workshops.....	3
Low Water Crossing Hazardous To Your Life.....	4
Floodplain Management Survey Results.....	5
The Association of State Floodplain Managers 1995 Annual Conference.....	8
Emergency Management Institute.....	8
Keep It Clean.....	9
FEMA'S CORNER.....	10
U.S. Committee On Irrigation And Drainage.....	11

SPRING FLOODS WILL BE HERE SHORTLY

After the southeast Texas Floods of 1994, it was noted by former Governor Ann Richards that people should not have been allowed to build in the floodplain. Some of the hardest hit areas were in the floodway. Several slab-on-grade homes, which were designed to withstand the floodway waters, had walls that collapsed. Now, spring floods could be in your neighborhood shortly. As the floodplain administrator, there are a few things which can be done to prepare for possible floods.

1. Identify the structures in the 100-year floodplain and possibly those outside of the floodplain which may potentially flood in case the flood exceeds the 100-year event.
2. Locate streets which will need to be blockaded, and residents who will need to be evacuated.
3. Encourage residents which might be flooded to buy flood insurance. It is far less expensive than replacing everything.
4. Have extra sets of maps available for use by officials and volunteers in case of a flood.
5. Maintain or establish a good relationship with the emergency management coordinator.
6. Determine who will speak to the press and make sure the local paper and reporters are treated well. Remember, the locals will be reporting for the duration of the flood and will still be there when all is calm again.
7. Find out if any scout troops, churches, schools, or other organizations have volunteers who would be able to help in the event of a flood.

These are just a few suggestions to help your community plan for floods in the future. More information and thoughts to come in future newsletters. If you have any ideas or stories which could aid in preparing for disasters, please contact Catherine Findley at 512/239-4773.

TNRCC FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

Several TNRCC Floodplain Management Workshops have been scheduled for 1995. We would like to apologize for having to reschedule some of the workshops because of the floods in southeast Texas. We hope that you and your community try to attend these workshops, since training will receive more attention in coming years. We look forward to seeing you at the workshops over the next year.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Module</u>
Amarillo Facilities Building	February 15, 1995	Basic Floodplain Management, 8 a.m.-noon LOMA/LOMR, 1-5 p.m.
Harlingen*	March 22, 1995	Coastal Floodplain Management 101, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Abilene West Central Council of Governments	April 6, 1995	Basic Floodplain Management 101, 8 a.m.-noon How to Permit Floodplain Development, 1-5 p.m.
College Station	April 12, 1995	Basic Floodplain Management 101, 8 a.m.-noon How to Permit Floodplain Development, 1-5 p.m.
Port Arthur	April 26, 1995	Coastal Floodplain Management 101, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Temple	May 17, 1995	Basic Floodplain Management 101, 8 a.m.-noon Map Reading 101, 1-5 p.m.
Corpus Christi	June 14, 1995	Basic Floodplain Management 101, 8 a.m.-noon How to Permit Floodplain Development, 1-5 p.m.
	June 15, 1995	Community Rating System, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Uvalde Civic Center, Reading Room	June 27, 1995	Basic Floodplain Management 101, 8 a.m.-noon How to Permit Floodplain Development, 1-5 p.m.
El Paso*	July 19, 1995	Basic Floodplain Management 101, 8 a.m.-noon Map Reading 101, 1-5 p.m.
Sherman	August 15, 1995	Basic Floodplain Management 101, 8 a.m.-noon How to Permit Floodplain Development, 1-5 p.m.

*Indicates workshops which have not yet been confirmed

A Community Rating System module is being prepared for communities who wish to participate or learn more about this program. If you or your community is interested in this program, please contact Catherine Findley at 512/239-4773.

DANGER: LOW WATER CROSSINGS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR LIFE

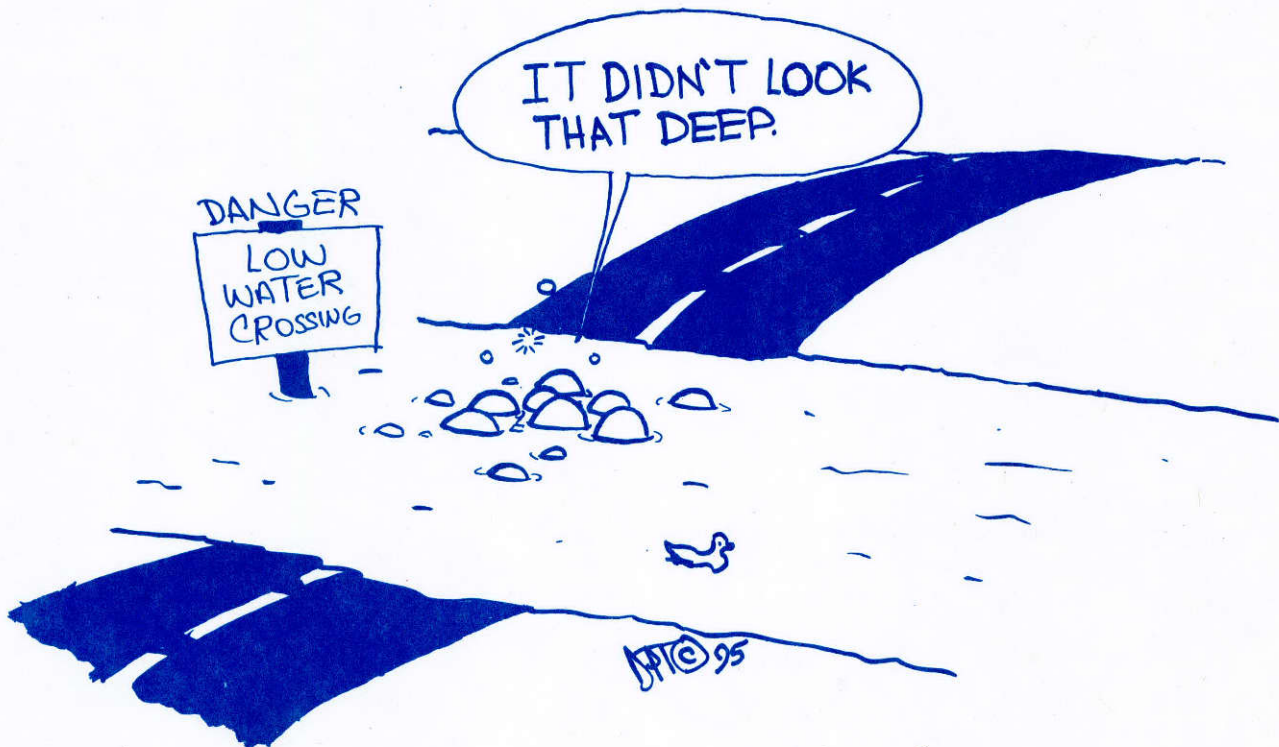
The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) has emphasized in its Community Floodplain Workshops the dangerous potential for loss of life at low water crossings and the need to mark or identify the most hazardous locations. Yet, it seems like every time we have a flood these days, someone tries to drive across these low water crossings and is washed into the stream. If you read accounts of most floods in Texas, the primary loss of life is attributed to persons driving their vehicles into flooded road crossings. A very alarming situation has developed in several past flood events. Not only have drivers and passengers of vehicles washed off roads and drowned, but also public officials have drowned while attempting rescue.

Remember, it is the state and local officials who must respond when a flood occurs and these people must place their lives on the line when a stranded motorist reaches his hand out for help. Don't continue to let this unnecessary loss of life occur. Identify, mark and even barricade those hazardous low water crossings.

The City of San Antonio has established a \$400.00 fee when a fire fighting unit is requested to rescue victims from low/swift water crossings. It is a violation of the Community's Ordinance to go around traffic barricades at low water crossings.

For a sample of San Antonio's City Ordinance, please do not hesitate to contact us at 512/239-4772.

Don't wait till the next flood comes before you take action. **DO IT NOW!**



FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT SURVEY RESULTS

To promote better coordination at the federal, state, and local level, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has encouraged the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC is the designated state agency to coordinate floodplain management in the State of Texas) and the Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA is a state chapter of the National Association of State Floodplain Managers) to help improve floodplain management in Texas. This survey was prepared by TNRCC and TFMA and published in our summer issue of FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT newsletter. It is hoped that the results of the survey will help us determine what issues and needs exist throughout Texas. With these state-wide concerns better defined, FEMA, TNRCC, and TFMA can meet these needs through better maps, workshops, proposed legislation, etc.

WE WANT TO THANK EVERYONE THAT TOOK A FEW MINUTES OUT OF THEIR VERY BUSY SCHEDULES TO FILL OUT THE SURVEY.

These are the results of the survey:

PART 1 - STATE PROGRAM AND LEGISLATION

PERCENT OF TOTAL THAT WERE YES ANSWERS

1. Do you believe the State of Texas has an adequate State Floodplain Management Program to address the diverse flood hazards of the state? **57%**
2. Should the efforts of the State Floodplain Management Program be expanded and enhanced to provide more support to local governments in floodplain management and hazard mitigation? **60%**
If YES, In what ways? **Training; enforcement powers for counties; technical assistance and public awareness campaign**
3. Should permitting and approval of local mitigation and floodplain development projects be part of the State Floodplain Management Program? **27%**
4. Would you object to a fee or special assessment to help generate income to support state floodplain management and flood mitigation activities? **67%**
Any suggestions? **Surcharge to flood insurance premiums; state fee for each floodplain permit issued with rebate or works for community; FEMA pay 50% of administrative costs.**
5. If a community has FEMA flood maps and/or experiences a major flood, should it be mandatory for that community to join the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and begin management of development within the floodplain? **70%**
6. Should it be mandated by state law that participating communities in the NFIP have on staff a trained and certified professional floodplain administrator to enforce the development criteria of the NFIP? **53%**
7. Should river authorities in Texas become more involved in floodplain management, dam safety and hazard mitigation activities across the state? **80%**
Any suggestions? **Only on a consulting or cooperative basis; provide comprehensive planning; and prepare reservoir operation & floodplain impact studies.**
8. Should Texas communities, especially counties, be given more authority to regulate development in floodplains? **100%**
Within watersheds? **97%**
Within extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) areas? **87%**

**PERCENT OF TOTAL THAT
WERE YES ANSWERS**

- 9. Should Texas communities participating in the NFIP be given the authority to adopt and enforce more stringent development criteria than the minimum now required by FEMA? 83%
- 10. Should the state and federal government expand loan and grant programs to provide more money for local projects? 67%

PART 2 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

- 11. Does your community participate in the NFIP? 97%
If NO, why not? **Have no need**
- 12. Are you involved in the day-to-day management of your community's floodplains? 80%
If YES, how many years? **0 to 18**
- 13. Have you ever received any type of formal training and education to help you perform your duties as a local floodplain administrator? 83%
If YES, what type of training and who conducted class? **TNRCC Workshops; EMI courses; and TFMA Seminars; and Civil Engineer Degree**
- 14. Do you believe your community has adequate control over developments within the 100-year floodplain? 73%
Within the watershed? 37%
- 15. Is your community active in stormwater management and pollution control? 50%
Are you actively involved in these activities? 40%
- 16. If FEMA has mapped floodplains in your community, are the maps adequate and accurate? 37%
Do the maps need updating? 100%
- 17. If FEMA has not mapped floodplains within your community, do you see a need for preparing maps to identify flood prone areas within the community? 97%
- 18. Would you like to receive more active support in floodplain management and hazard mitigation from:
 - a. The state (TNRCC, DEM, GLO, etc.) 53%
 - b. The FEMA? 47%
 - c. The Texas Floodplain Management Association? 53%
- 19. Does your community participate in the Community Rating System program (CRS)? 37%
If NO, why not? **No time, resources, or manpower; number of insurance policies does not justify cost; benefits limited to policy holders-not worth effort; community not doing minimum NFIP requirements; no chief elected official support.**
- 20. Would you support a certification program for floodplain administrators/managers? 70%
 - a. Would you travel to a training facility within the state to take a 3-5 day floodplain management course? 33%
 - b. Would you take a home study course? 93%
 - c. Would you take an examination if one is required? 100%
 - d. Would you pay an annual certification fee to help offset program expenses? 33%
 - e. Should the certification program be mandatory? 33%
 - f. Should the certification program be voluntary? 33%
 - g. Should the program be tied to continuing education and periodic re-certification? 33%

**PERCENT OF TOTAL THAT
WERE YES ANSWERS**

21. Do you have the support of your locally elected officials (City Council/Commissioners Court)? . 83%
If NO, how are they not supporting you? Selective or No Enforcement of Ordinance / Court Order
22. Do you believe that your community is doing all it can do to minimize the potential of flooding and the possibility of loss of life and damage to property? 43%
23. Has your community developed any type of mitigation project that has a beneficial effect to minimize flooding, protect lives and prevent property damage? 70%
If YES, please explain: Capital Improvement Projects: drainage, detention, levee, channel; relocation of 60 unit mobile home park; warning system; public awareness programs;
24. Does your community have any special fee or assessment to help pay for floodplain management and mitigation activities? 33%
If YES, please explain: Most have a flat fee from \$15 to \$1000 to review floodplain plans. Some have a \$45 permit fee plus a \$20 floodplain development fee.
25. Do you know your community's emergency management coordinator? 90%
If YES, do you cooperate and coordinate local activities during flood events? 90%

PART 3 - TEXAS FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

26. Are you a member of the Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA)? 50%
If NO, why not? Unaware Association existed; no benefits in belonging; no budget; floodplain management is less that 15% of job; no excuse.
27. Have you attended a TFMA flood conference and training seminar? 33%
If YES, where and when? San Angelo 90; Austin 92; Seguin 93; Richardson 94
28. Have you attended a TNRCC floodplain management workshop or seminar? 33%
If YES, where and when? Victoria 93; Georgetown 93; Angleton 93; Austin 86; Waxahachie 94
29. Are you a member of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM)? 27%
have you ever attended a ASFPM National Conference? 27%
If YES, where and when? Denver, Atlanta, Grand Rapids, Tulsa
30. What type of activities should the TFMA be involved with?
a. Conduct workshops/training seminars? 100%
b. Publish a quarterly newsletter? 93%
c. Become a more active voice for Texas communities? 50%
d. Become more involved in legislation and reform? 50%
e. Provide technical assistance to local governments? 93%
f. Establish a library of technical manuals and videos? 67%
g. Develop a formal agreement between TNRCC and TFMA to assist in state floodplain management activities? 50%
h. Continue efforts to establish a floodplain administrator certification program? 50%
i. Continue efforts with ASFPM to voice Texas concerns on the national level? 90%
31. Would you be interested in preparing an article for publication in the TNRCC quarterly floodplain management newsletter? 27%
32. What other professional organizations or associations do you belong to:
ASCE, AWRA, SME, SNPE, APWA, TPWA, TML, ULI, APA, ICAM, TEHA, BOAT, SCPBI, ASFPM, SBCCI, CEAR, GCEM, TSPE, TACERA, NACE, NPWA, NFPA.

33. In your opinion, what will improve floodplain management in Texas?

- Additional, specific funding for FPM staff at state level
- Stronger legislation - include River Authorities & funding mechanism for state & local FPM
- Include FPM activities under "Stormwater Utility Districts"
- Cost sharing for studies/FPM implementation, eg., TWDB Planning Grants
- Map fully developed floodplains
- Develop a no net rise requirement
- Increase benefits for community involvement in CRS program
- Enforcement of NFIP regulations
- More assistance and education and more active role from FEMA, TNRCC, & TFMA in the program
- Expansion of TFMA to better benefit members
- More cooperation with other organizations in Texas
- Community participation and commitment of elected officials to support the program
- Beneficial public awareness and concern of the problem by the state and local politicians
- Communicating the benefits of the NFIP
- Continuing to provide updates and community visits
- Keeping the Feds out as much as possible
- Regulators realizing that all communities are not the same
- Compliance of NFIP regulations by State and Federal agencies
- Consistency in the NFIP requirements

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT AND TIME SPENT ON THIS SURVEY!

**THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS 1995
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PORTLAND, MAINE
May 22-26, 1995**

"From the Mountains to the Sea: Developing Local Capabilities" is the theme for the conference. This 19th Annual Conference training will focus on the role of local government. Registration prior to April 18, 1995, is \$230 for ASFPM members, \$270 for non-members, and \$110 for full-time students. For more information and a brochure, contact W. Louis Sidell, Jr. at the Department of Economics & Community Development, State House Station #130, Augusta ME 04333, or by phone (207)624-6800 or by fax (207) 624-6810.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

The Emergency Management Institute is located in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This is a training center operated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Three classes involving floodplain management are being taught during 1995. Travel expenses and rooms are paid. The expense to you or your community is your time, food costs, and extra spending money. If you are interested in attending these courses, please contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VI at (817)898-5127.

KEEP IT CLEAN

No, I don't mean your language; I mean your community's storm-water drainage system. It was designed to discharge a certain volume of storm-water runoff at a pre-determined flow rate, normally specified in cubic feet per second. Each individual segment of the overall drainage system has its part to play in the safe and effective discharge of storm-water. Any encroachment in any segment of the system will affect the performance of the system. Unauthorized fill, accumulated trash, or uncontrolled vegetation growth can have the same results; flooding in areas that should not flood. Liability in such situations tends to be fairly clear cut, and points to whoever had responsibility for maintenance of the particular segment of the system that could not carry its design capacity. Take a look at your community's storm-water drainage system. You may have accepted some new subdivision or annexed some smaller communities, and inherited maintenance responsibilities.



© 1995 by David P. Terry

FEMA's CORNER

"Don't Be A Flood Victim, AGAIN!"

If you and your neighbors are interested in stopping the cycle of flood - repair - flood - repair, then you are interested in "Mitigation". Here are questions you should ask your local Floodplain Manager:

1. Is my house in the floodplain?
NO: Go to "Answer A."
YES: Go to "Question 2."
2. Is my house built to current standards?
NO: Go to "Answer A."
YES: Go to "Question 3."
3. I have this many dollars damage, do I have "substantial damage" to my house?
NO: Go to "Answer A."
YES: Go to "Question 4."

Answer A: Get a building permit and begin repairs on your home.

MORE QUESTIONS:

4. What do I need to do to rebuild my house to the current safer standards?
* Your Local Building Official will answer this question.
5. What COMMUNITY BASED MITIGATION projects are available?
* Elevate buildings above the flood hazard
* Relocate buildings to higher ground
* Government acquisition of property for conversion to parks or greenbelts
* Flood control measures
6. How do I get one of these projects for my community?
* Get together with your neighbors and local officials and let them know you are interested.
7. How do I find out more?

Call FEMA at 817/898-5127

U.S. COMMITTEE ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE

Flood Management Seminar

The 1993 Mississippi River Basin Flood spawned increased examination of the policies and practices pursued by government agencies for flood protection and floodplain management in the U.S. Furthermore, in light of growing attention to the environmental ramifications of structural and non-structural approaches to flood protection, a discussion on policy development and alternative options is particularly relevant.

The **U.S. Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (USCID) Flood Management Seminar**, to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, on March 30 - April 1, 1995, will address these issues in a multi-disciplinary forum. The objective of the Seminar is to provide an open discussion of integrated flood management policies, considering political, institutional, engineering, environmental and economic perspectives.

The theme of the Seminar is *The Realities of Floods - A Multi-disciplinary Review of Flood Management Issues*. Lectures by invited speakers will focus on: **Politics of Floods, The Flood Management Milieu, Management of Floods and Where Do We Go From Here?**

An **Opening Session** address and **lunch** and **dinner** presentations by prominent experts will highlight key topics of interest. A **Concluding Session**, featuring an expert panel and discussion period involving all seminar participants, will focus on recommendations for public policy development and future actions to be taken by flood managers.

A **Poster Session** will feature case study presentations on specific examples of flood control problems and solutions. A **Call for Papers** for the Poster Session will be issued; interested water resources professionals will be invited to submit abstracts for proposed case studies. Any examination of recent flood incidents, or reports on flood planning or management studies in the U.S. or overseas, will be considered.

The Seminar will include a **Study Tour** to review flood control and water management features in the St. Louis area. A **Proceedings** of the Seminar will be published following the meeting.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE USCID TO ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE.

To receive the Call for Papers and/or the final program and registration form, complete the following forms and mail it to the USCID at the address below:

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

EMPLOYER: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ FAX: _____

U.S. COMMITTEE ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE
1616 SEVENTEENTH STREET - SUITE 483
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability in employment or in the provision of services, programs, or activities. In Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document may be requested in alternate formats by contacting the TNRCC at 512/239-0010, Fax 239-0055 or 1-800-RELAY-TX(TDD), or by writing P.O. BOX 13087, Austin, TX 78711 or visiting 12100 Park 35 Circle, Austin, TX 78753.

REMEMBER

Your community receives one copy of this Newsletter. Please circulate to all key personnel with responsibilities in Floodplain Management or Emergency Management.

Editor:

JAMES MIRABAL, P.E.

Editing Staff:

LOYD C. BLACKMON
CATHERINE M. FINDLEY
ANNETTE MADDERN
DAVID P. TERRY, Cartoonist

Telephone 512/239-4771

This newsletter is published through assistance provided by FEMA under the Community Assistance Program-State Services Support Element Grant of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP CAP-SSSE). The contents do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Federal Government or the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FLOOD MANAGEMENT SECTION
12100 PARK 35 CIRCLE
POST OFFICE BOX 13087
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-3087

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Austin, Texas
Permit NO. 1967

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED