



# OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor  
Amy L. Brown, Acting City Administrator

April 28, 2011

Kathleen Schaefer  
Senior Engineer  
FEMA Region IX  
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Ms. Schaefer,

This letter is in response to the January 28, 2011 letter from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF). In the letter, FEMA notified CCSF that San Francisco International Airport (Airport) will be removed from the San Mateo County and Incorporated Areas Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and added to the CCSF FIRM, which is currently in production.

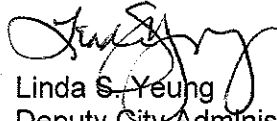
With the letter, FEMA provided CCSF with the revised preliminary FIRM for San Mateo County, dated January 21, 2011, showing the removal of the Airport. CCSF has reviewed the revised preliminary and has only one comment: "San Francisco" is misspelled on Panels 0044, 0063, 0132, and 0151.

The January 28, 2011 letter states the technical data submitted by CCSF for the Airport in April 2006 is not sufficient to revise the flood hazard data at the Airport. As discussed during the April 1, 2011, meeting between CCSF and FEMA, CCSF must provide data demonstrating that the levees at the Airport meet FEMA's criteria for levee accreditation in order for FEMA to show the Airport property as being protected from the 1-percent annual chance flood by those levees. Consequently, CCSF will prepare and submit more detailed data regarding levee accreditation to FEMA. It is our understanding that FEMA will review the data in the context of the ongoing bay analysis, and FEMA will respond as to whether the levees can be accredited. If the levees can be accredited, FEMA will remove the 1-percent annual chance floodplain from the Airport. If the levees cannot be accredited, FEMA will evaluate how to map the flood hazard per the new methodology for mapping of areas behind non-accredited levees. CCSF understands this methodology is in the process of being developed over the next six months.

CCSF intends to submit the data for levee accreditation prior to FEMA's meeting with CCSF (planned for September 2011) to discuss the results of the bay analysis. CCSF hopes this will allow for sufficient review and consideration.

Should you have any questions regarding CCSF's comments or the submittal of data regarding the Airport levees, please do not hesitate to contact me at (415) 554-7124 or [linda.yeung@sfgov.org](mailto:linda.yeung@sfgov.org).

Sincerely,



Linda S. Yeung  
Deputy City Administrator

cc: Luis Rodriguez, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, FEMA  
Gregor Blackburn, FEMA Region IX  
Ray Lenaburg, FEMA Region IX  
Eric Simmons, FEMA Region IX  
Martha Whetstone, San Francisco International Airport  
Jim Chiu, San Francisco International Airport