News Release

CHARLESTON COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA

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Charleston County to review federal preliminary updated flood insurance maps

Charleston County's Building Inspection Services Department is receiving and will be reviewing the new preliminary flood maps provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Flood Insurance Rate Maps are being updated as part of a map modernization program conducted by FEMA.

The updated flood mapping will provide property owners with up-to-date flood hazard information and should prevent unnecessary insurance purchases.

FEMA will host public meetings to provide the public opportunities to review the maps and ask questions. The dates of those meetings have not yet been announced. The public will also have an opportunity to file objections to the mapping of their property. Details about the objection process will be released at the public meetings and on FEMA's website.

"The preliminary maps will start a year or more process to get to a final set of maps for our citizens. The maps will be technically reviewed and presented to the public sometime this fall, according to FEMA and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Following the public meetings, a 90-day period will allow anyone who has problems with the maps to file their concern with FEMA," said Charleston County Building Inspections Director Carl Simmons. "The current maps and regulations will remain official and used until the new maps are finalized and approved by local ordinances."

The projected effective date of the maps, following the County's review and comments as well as the public meetings and objection filings, is April of 2018, according to FEMA.

Citizens with properties within the jurisdiction of a municipality who have questions should contact that municipality's floodplain coordinator. Citizens with properties within unincorporated Charleston County who have questions, should call 843-202-6957. You can also reach the FEMA Map Information eXchange at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

Citizens can later view the maps on the FEMA's Map Service Center here: https://msc.fema.gov/portal/

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