Dear Mayor Riordan:

This responds to a request for a revision to the effective Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) map for your community. Specifically, this responds to letters dated July 18, 1996, from Mr. Philip L. Richardson, Division Engineer, Stormwater Management Division, Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works, City of Los Angeles, and June 14, 1996, from Mr. John B. Warner, regarding the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the City of Los Angeles, California. They requested that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) revise the effective FIRM to show the effects of construction of the Ventura-Canoga Drain Project from Ventura Boulevard to Avenue San Luis under Alhama Drive, from Avenue San Luis to Velicata Street under Comerico Avenue, and from Velicata Street to approximately 200 feet upstream of Castillo Street under Canoga Avenue. The Ventura-Canoga Drain Project consists of construction of catch basins and a reinforced concrete pipe storm drain (diameter 48 inches to 72 inches). In his June 14 letter, Mr. Warner requested that the Zone AO (depth 1 foot) designation be removed from his property at 4372 Canoga Avenue, based on the effects of the Ventura-Canoga Drain Project. Because both requests are based on the effects of the same project, we have processed the requests as a single Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).

All data required to complete our review of this request were submitted with Mr. Richardson’s July 18 letter and Mr. Warner’s June 14 letter. Because this LOMR shows the effects of a publicly sponsored flood-control project that reduces flooding to existing development, fees were not assessed for the review.

We have completed our review of the submitted data and the flood data shown on the effective FIRM, and have revised the FIRM to modify the elevations, floodplain boundary delineations, and zone designations of the flood having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (base flood) for the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) east of Canoga Avenue from just downstream of Saltillo Street to approximately 300 feet upstream of Rios Street.

The SFHA east of Canoga Avenue from just downstream of Saltillo Street to approximately 300 feet upstream of Rios Street was removed. This area previously designated Zone AO, an area inundated by the base flood with a depth of 1 foot, was redesignated Zone C, an area of minimal flooding. The base flood is contained in the storm drain and streets.
The modification is shown on the enclosed annotated copy of FIRM Panel 0042 C. This LOMR hereby revises this panel of the effective FIRM dated December 2, 1980.

The revisions are effective as of the date of this letter; however, a review of the determination made by this LOMR and any requests to alter this determination should be made within 30 days. Any request to alter the determination must be based on scientific or technical data.

We will not physically revise and republish the FIRM and FIS report for your community to reflect the modifications made by this LOMR at this time. However, when changes to FIRM Panel 0042 C and the FIS report for your community warrant a physical revision and republication in the future, we will incorporate the modifications made by this LOMR at that time.

This response to Mr. Richardson's and Mr. Warner's requests is based on minimum floodplain management criteria established under the NFIP. Your community is responsible for approving all floodplain development, including this request, and for ensuring that necessary permits required by Federal or State law have been received. With knowledge of local conditions and in the interest of safety, State and community officials may set higher standards for construction, or may limit development in floodplain areas. If the State of California or your community has adopted more restrictive or comprehensive floodplain management criteria, these criteria take precedence.

The basis of this LOMR is, in whole or in part, a culvert project. NFIP regulations, as cited in Paragraph 60.3(b)(7), require that communities assure that the flood-carrying capacity within the altered or relocated portion of any watercourse is maintained. This provision is incorporated into your community's existing floodplain management regulations. Consequently, the ultimate responsibility for maintenance of the culvert rests with your community.

Because this LOMR will not be printed and distributed to primary users, such as local insurance agents and mortgage lenders, your community will serve as a repository for these new data. We encourage you to disseminate the information reflected by this LOMR throughout the community, so that interested persons, such as property owners, local insurance agents, and mortgage lenders, may benefit from the information. We also encourage you to prepare an article for publication in your community's local newspaper. This article should describe the changes that have been made and the assistance that officials of your community will give to interested persons by providing these data and interpreting the NFIP maps.

The map panel as listed above and as revised by this letter will be used for all flood insurance policies and renewals issued for your community.

This determination has been made pursuant to Section 206 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-234) and is in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended (Title XIII of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Public Law 90-448), 42 U.S.C. 4001-4128, and 44 CFR Part 65. Pursuant to Section 1361 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended, communities participating in the NFIP are required to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations that meet or exceed NFIP criteria. These criteria are the minimum requirements and do not supersede any State or local requirements of a more stringent nature. This includes adoption of the effective FIRM to which the regulations apply and the modifications described in this LOMR.

If you have any questions regarding floodplain management regulations for your community or the NFIP in general, please contact the Consultation Coordination Officer (CCO) for your community. Information on the CCO for your community may be obtained by contacting the Director, Mitigation Division of FEMA in
San Francisco, California, at (415) 923-7177. If you have any technical questions regarding this LOMR, please contact Mr. John Magnotti of our staff in Washington, DC, either by telephone at (202) 646-3932 or by facsimile at (202) 646-4596.

Sincerely,

Michael K. Buckley, P.E., Chief
Hazard Identification Branch
Mitigation Directorate

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Robert S. Horii
City Engineer
Bureau of Engineering
Department of Public Works
City of Los Angeles

Mr. Philip L. Richardson
Division Engineer
Stormwater Management Division
Bureau of Engineering
Department of Public Works
City of Los Angeles

Mr. John B. Warner