

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

FROM: Phil Cecere, Building Official/ Fire Marshal
Greg Ballard, Development Code Administrator

DATE: 11/04/2024

SUBJECT: **Continued Hearing and Deliberations** re: An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance in Chapter 15.15 of the Jefferson County Code; Enacting a new chapter 15.15 of the Jefferson County Code and Adding State of Washington Model Flood Ordinance and Federal Emergency Management Agency Community Rating System Program Provisions; Repealing Ordinance No. 05-0513-19; and Amending Section 18.40.040 of the Jefferson County Code

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

The Department of Community Development (DCD) requests a continuation to a public hearing and deliberations to update JCC Title 15 as it pertains to flood damage prevention. The proposed ordinance has been reviewed and recommended by The Jefferson County Planning Commission. The October 28, 2024 hearing was extended to allow the public to make additional comments until 5:00 P.M. November 1, 2024.

ANALYSIS:

In the fourth quarter of 2023, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conducted an audit of Jefferson County's compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) through implementation of Chapter 15.15 entitled *Flood Damage Prevention*. FEMA also reviewed Chapter 15.15 to ensure the Floodplain Management regulations meet or exceed the minimum criteria outlined in 44CFR Part 60.3 entitled *Flood plain management criteria for flood-prone areas*. FEMA conducted this audit through a state agency, the Department of Ecology (ECY). ECY toured the floodplain, inspected community permit files, and met with local appointed and elected officials as part of the Customer Assistance Visit (CAV) audit that should occur once every five years; Jefferson County's last CAV occurred more than twelve years ago.

The resulting proposed ordinance is a repeal and replace of JCC 15.15 and an amendment of JCC 18.040. The proposed ordinance includes changes that meet or exceed current minimum regulatory standards for floodplain management. Some language and standards are placed to provide potential enrollment in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS program enrollment could reduce property owners flood insurance premiums. Reductions in premiums are provided on a sliding scale depending on level of county eligibility.

The draft ordinance has been viewed and commented on by several advisory and regulatory bodies including WA State Dept of Ecology, WA State Dept of Commerce, Jefferson County Planning Commission, FEMA and Jefferson County Prosecutor's Office.

This draft ordinance follows SEPA and was issued a determination of non-significance by the county SEPA responsible official.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are no direct fiscal impacts as a result of this proposed update.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board approve the request and hold a continuance of the public hearing and deliberations.

VIEW DOCUMENTS:

To view draft ordinance and hearing material, copy and paste this in your browser:

<https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1440>