



MYSTIC RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
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January 24, 2008

Art Cleaves, Regional Administrator
FEMA, Region 1
99 High Street
Boston, MA 02110

RE: Comments about Preliminary FEMA Flood Maps and Support of Mr. Steven Kaiser's
12/6/2007 Comment letter

Dear Mr. Cleaves:

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) is a grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Mystic River, its tributaries, and the related natural resources throughout the watershed's 22 communities. The right of groups of citizens to challenge effectively the decisions of their community's Conservation Commissions, of DEP and of FEMA is important to MyRWA and its members. We therefore are respectfully submitting comments on the preliminary FEMA flood maps released in the fall of 2007. Specifically, we will refer to a comment letter already submitted to you by Mr. Steven Kaiser, a Cambridge resident.

Although Mr. Kaiser has delved into much deeper detail than we at MyRWA have, we support his effort, and strongly wish to receive answers to specific issues he poses in his 47-page comment letter.

In addition to being copied on the response to Mr. Kaiser's letter, we would like to request that FEMA issue a simplified report of the new maps, which includes the model assumptions made, a summary of the important results and important deviations from the 1982 model. We are fortunate to have had Mr. Kaiser spend an incredible number of hours studying this model to understand its frailties, but we don't believe that such a monumental effort by a very intelligent, experienced and motivated citizen should be the only means for the community to understand and comment on this important model. Such information should be presented in a way that is readable and understandable to the general public.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Reinhardt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Reinhardt" clearly distinguishable.

John Reinhardt
President

Cc: Kevin Merli, Director, FEMA Region 1 Mitigation Division
Michael Goetz, Chief, FEMA Region 1 Risk Analysis Branch
David Mendelsohn, FEMA Region 1