

Chapter 21A-24  
Rules and Regulations of the  
Department of Development and Environmental Services

Sensitive Areas: Flood Hazard Areas

Effective Date: November 6, 2002

Page 1 of 4

Amended: April 7, 2003

Sections:

- 21A-24-230 Definitions
- 21A-24-235 Authority and Purpose
- 21A-24-240 Available Floodway Data
- 21A-24-245 Access to Available Floodway Data
- 21A-24-250 Severability

**21A-24-230 Definitions.**

A. Available floodway data. " Available floodway data" means data or any combination of data available from federal, state or other sources including, but not limited to, maps, studies, reports, historical flood hazard information, channel migration zone maps or studies, or other related engineering and technical data, that identify floodplain boundaries, regulatory floodway boundaries, base flood elevations, or flood cross sections.

B. Department. "Department" means the Department of Development and Environmental Services of King County.

C. Draft flood boundary work map. " Draft flood boundary work map" means a floodplain map prepared by a mapping partner, reflecting the results of a flood study or other floodplain mapping analysis. The draft flood boundary work map depicts floodplain boundaries, regulatory floodway boundaries, base flood elevations, and flood cross sections, and provides the basis for the presentation of this information on a P-FIRM or FIRM.

D. Federal Emergency Management Agency. " Federal Emergency Management Agency" means the independent federal agency that, among other responsibilities, oversees the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program.

E. FEMA. " FEMA" means the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

F. FIRM. " FIRM" means a flood insurance rate map.

Sensitive Areas: Flood Hazard Areas

Page 2 of 4

Effective Date: November 6, 2002Amended: April 7, 2003

G. Flood hazard boundary map. "Flood hazard boundary map" means the initial insurance map issued by FEMA that identifies, based on approximate analyses, the areas of the one percent annual chance (100-year) flood hazard within a community.

H. Historical flood hazard information. "Historical flood hazard information" means information that identifies floodplain boundaries, regulatory floodway boundaries, base flood elevations, or flood cross sections including, but not limited to, photos, video recordings, high water marks, survey information or news agency reports.

I. Letter of map amendment. "Letter of map amendment" means an official determination by FEMA that a property has been inadvertently included in an area subject to inundation by the base flood as shown on a flood hazard boundary map or flood insurance rate map.

J. Letter of map revision. "Letter of map revision" means a letter issued by FEMA to revise the flood hazard boundary map or flood insurance rate map and flood insurance study for a community to change base flood elevations, and floodplain and floodway boundary delineation.

K. LOMA. "LOMA" means a letter of map amendment.

L. LOMR. "LOMR" means a letter of map revision.

M. Mapping partner. "Mapping partner" means any qualified organization or individual that is involved in the development and maintenance of a draft flood boundary work map, P-FIRM or FIRM.

N. P-FIRM. "P-FIRM" means a preliminary flood insurance rate map.

O. Preliminary flood insurance rate map.

"Preliminary flood insurance rate map" means the initial map issued by FEMA for public review and comment that delineates areas of flood hazard.

P. Preliminary flood insurance study. "Preliminary flood insurance study" means the preliminary report provided by FEMA for public review and comment that includes flood profiles, text, data tables, and photographs.

**21A-24-235 Authority and Purpose.** These rules are authorized pursuant to K.C.C. chapter 2.98, K.C.C. 21A.24.040, K.C.C. 21A.24.230, RCW 86.16.051 and 44 Code of Federal Regulations(C.F.R.) 60.3. It is the purpose of

Effective Date: November 6, 2002

Amended: April 7, 2003

these rules to implement the provisions of K.C.C. 21A.24.230 requiring King County to determine flood hazard areas after obtaining, reviewing and utilizing base flood elevations and available floodway data.

**21A-24-240 Available Floodway Data.** A. King County shall utilize the following sources of available floodway data for floodplain boundaries, regulatory floodway boundaries, base flood elevations, flood profiles, or cross sections when determining a flood hazard area:

1. FIRMs;
2. Flood Insurance Studies;
3. P-FIRMs;
4. Preliminary Flood Insurance Studies;
5. Draft flood boundary work maps and associated technical reports;
6. Critical areas reports prepared in accordance with FEMA standards set forth at 44 C.F.R. Part 65 and consistent with the King County Surface Water Design Manual provisions for floodplain analysis set forth at section 4.4.2;
7. LOMAs;
8. LOMRs;
9. Channel migration zone maps and studies;
10. Historical flood hazard information; and
11. Site topography and ground elevations.

B. When there are multiple sources of available floodway data for floodplain boundaries, regulatory floodway boundaries, base flood elevations, flood profiles, or cross sections, the department, under the authority in K.C.C. 21A.24.080, shall determine which data most accurately classifies and delineates the flood hazard area.

**21A-24-245 Access to Available Floodway Data.** The available floodway data identified in section 21A-24-240 of this rule is available for inspection and use by the public at either, or both, of the following locations:

Sensitive Areas: Flood Hazard Areas

Page 4 of 4

Effective Date: November 6, 2002

Amended: April 7, 2003

A. King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, 900 Oakesdale Avenue Southwest, Renton, Washington.

B. King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Water and Land Resources Division, 201 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

**21A-24-250 Severability.** If a provision of these rules or its applicability to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the provisions of these rules or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.