

Open House to Highlight Changes to Flood Risk and Introduce Proposed New Flood Maps

If you live or do business in Hendry County, your flood risk may have changed. Citizens will have an opportunity to look at and ask questions about the Preliminary Countywide Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) at the upcoming public open house. These maps cover all of Hendry County, including the following communities.

City of Clewiston City of LaBelle Unincorporated Areas of Hendry County

The open house is an informal event, open to everyone. Attendees may arrive at any time during the three-hour event and receive individualized attention.

Public Outreach Open House
Tuesday, September 17, 2013, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
John Boy Auditorium
100 Sugarland Park Drive
Clewiston, FL 33440

Attendees will see paper or digital versions of the preliminary flood maps. Information tables will be set up around the room, where staff from FEMA, local communities and engineering contractors will answer questions about flood insurance, engineering and development permit requirements. Attendees can also pick up a variety of printed information.

Some important reasons to attend the open house include:

- See if your home or business is affected by changes in designations of high-risk special flood hazard areas;
- Ask questions about how the map changes may affect your flood insurance premiums;
- Learn more about the engineering behind the new maps,
- Ask questions about permitting in the flood zone,
- Understand your flood risk better,
- Understand the map adoption process; and
- Get information about how to file an appeal if you have better technical data.

A few weeks after the open house, there will be a 90-day appeal and comment period. Once all appeals and comments have been addressed, the community will have six months until the maps become “effective.” The communities will use this time to adopt the new flood maps into their local ordinances.

Adopting the new flood maps means that federally backed flood insurance will continue to be available to the residents of the community. Property owners will be able to purchase new policies and existing flood policies may be renewed. It also means federal disaster assistance may be provided to repair insurable buildings located within the Special Flood Hazard Area.