



June 24, 2013

Mr. William Murphy
Atkins Global
3901 Calverton Boulevard, Suite 400
Calverton, MD 20705

Re: Review of Draft Hennepin County FIS Mapping

Dear Mr. Murphy:

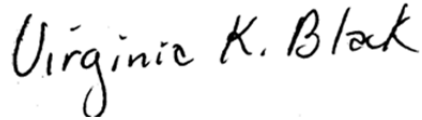
The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) recently directed its engineer (Barr Engineering) to complete a review of the revised preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) in the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for Hennepin County, Minnesota. BCWMC and Barr Engineering also maintain updated hydrologic and hydraulic models of Bassett Creek and other major waterbodies in the watershed for our management purposes. The BCWMC's modeled results were compared to the preliminary maps and there are two areas where the models agreed well with the Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) in the preliminary maps, and two areas where multiple discrepancies were found. The elevations in the models match the mapped BFEs for the Bassett Creek Main Stem (panels 356, 352, 214, 213, 351, 332, and 331) and the North Branch Bassett Creek (panels 214 and 194); however the models and the BFEs match poorly for all of the Sweeney Lake Branch (panels 351 and 352) and the majority of Plymouth Creek (Panels 193, 190, and 169).

The poor match for Plymouth Creek (Panels 193, 190, and 169) is caused by several changes since the previous mapping in 1977, including the addition or rebuilding of several road crossings, which have altered localized BFEs. To create accurate flood maps and BFEs for Plymouth Creek, the BCWMC respectfully requests that either: 1) FEMA review, and update as necessary, the models developed by the BCWMC and utilize the results in the FIS; or 2) FEMA complete its own re-study of Plymouth Creek.

In 2007, the City of Golden Valley completed a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) that significantly altered flood elevations along the Sweeney Lake Branch of Bassett Creek in panels 351 and 352. The BCWMC respectfully requests that the information included in this LOMR be incorporated into the updated FIS and floodplain maps for Hennepin County.

In summary, please revise the Sweeney Lake Branch FIRMs (panels 351 and 352) and the majority of the Plymouth Creek FIRMs (Panels 193, 190, and 169) to reflect current data before the Hennepin County FIS mapping is published. We appreciate your attention to these requests.

Sincerely,



Virginia K. Black, Chair
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

c: Suzanne Jiwani, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
BCWMC Technical Advisory Committee
Laura Jester, BCWMC Administrator
Barr Engineering, BCWMC Engineer