



Fort Bend County Engineering
FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS

Richard W. Stolleis, P.E.
County Engineer

December 13, 2017

To: Honorable Members of Commissioners Court

Reference: Variance on permit requirements for FEMA Temporary Housing Units

As Floodplain Coordinator, I recommend that the Commissioners Court grant a variance to Fort Bend County's Regulations for Floodplain Management on elevation and permit requirements for placement of FEMA Temporary Housing Units in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA), for residents damaged during Hurricane Harvey.

FEMA with the Texas General Land Office (GLO) is providing eligible disaster survivors temporary direct housing assistance with either manufactured housing units (MHU) or recreational vehicles (RV). FEMA and the GLO are requesting that Communities allow the temporary units to be placed without requiring full compliance with the Regulation of Floodplains. Since the MHUs and RVs are temporary, the units may be placed in a SFHA below the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) and an elevation certificate will not be required.

The County will issue a permit for a temporary basis to document their location and to ensure compliance with the floodplain regulations if the housing units remain on a permanent basis. There are no fees associated with the permit as the County has waived permit fees for flood damaged properties. The permit will be valid for a period of 24 months and will state that if the unit is purchased, it must be removed from the site or obtain a new permit in accordance with the County's regulations.

The County's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is not jeopardized by issuing temporary permits for disaster housing units below the BFE within a SFHA. FEMA has stated allowing this will not be held against the Community during any audits. The purpose of the FEMA and GLO temporary housing unit program is to provide reasonable temporary accommodations for displaced homeowners. If you have any questions, please contact Charles Dean at 281-633-7510.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard W. Stolleis", is written over the word "Cordially,".

Richard W. Stolleis, P.E.
County Engineer