



# Hays County, Texas

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## Information for the News Media

Jan. 22, 2018

### Floodplain Maps and Risk Information Open for Comments, Appeals

**Hays County Courthouse, San Marcos, TX** – New preliminary flood risk information and updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) will be available for review by area residents and business owners beginning January 25 and ending April 24.

“This is your opportunity to review the latest FEMA information to learn about local flood risks and potential future flood insurance requirements,” Tom Pope, Hays County Floodplain Administrator, said. “The review period allows stakeholders to identify any concerns or questions about the information provided and to participate in appeal and comment periods for the maps.”

The new flood risk information and FIRM resulted from a long-term flood study led by a team of local community, State, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials. Significant community review has already taken place, including Flood Risk Open Houses in August 2017 where residents and business owners in the affected counties were able to learn more about the new preliminary flood risk information and view the maps.

The detailed digital maps show current flood hazards for communities within portions of the San Marcos and Austin-Travis Lakes Watersheds and replace flood maps that are based on outdated studies and technology. The maps provide more precise flood hazard information for those areas, including places affected by the devastating Memorial Day 2015 floods and five other major floods since 2000.

**The deadline for submitting appeals or comments is April 24.** If property owners see incorrect information that does not change the flood hazard information—such as a missing or misspelled road name or an incorrect corporate boundary—they can submit a written comment. They can submit an appeal if they believe that modeling or data used to create the map is technically or scientifically incorrect. An appeal must include technical information, such as hydraulic or hydrologic data, to support the claim.

Appeals for property within all unincorporated areas of Hays County may be submitted to the County Floodplain Administrator’s Office.

Property owners can review the maps at Hays County Development Services, 2171 Yarrington Road, San Marcos or online at:

FEMA: [www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata](http://www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata)

Hays County: <http://www.co.hays.tx.us/development-services.aspx>

Use a live chat service about flood maps at [go.usa.gov/r6C](https://go.usa.gov/r6C) (click on the “Live Chat” icon)

Contact a FEMA Map Specialist by telephone, toll free, at 1-877-FEMA-MAP (1-877-336-2627) or by email at [FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com](mailto:FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com).

The next step in the mapping process is the resolution of all comments and appeals. Once they are resolved, FEMA will notify communities of the effective date of the final maps, which are expected to be complete in spring 2019.

For more information, contact the Hays County Development Services Department at 512.393.2150 or [floodplain@co.hays.tx.us](mailto:floodplain@co.hays.tx.us).

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