

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
FEMA Region IX  
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TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

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July 23, 2010

Mr. Ted Matley  
Federal Transit Administration  
Region IX  
U. S. Department of Transportation  
201 Mission Street, Suite 1650  
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Mr. Matley:

This is in response to your request for comments on the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project Final Environmental Impact Statement/Section 4(f) Evaluation and Additional Information for the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Please review the current effective countywide Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for the County and City of Honolulu (Community Number 150001), Maps revised June 2, 2005. Please note that the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii are participants in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The minimum, basic NFIP floodplain management building requirements are described in Vol. 44 Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR), Sections 59 through 65.

A summary of these NFIP floodplain management building requirements are as follows:

- All buildings constructed within a riverine floodplain, (i.e., Flood Zones A, AO, AH, AE, and A1 through A30 as delineated on the FIRM), must be elevated so that the lowest floor is at or above the Base Flood Elevation level in accordance with the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map.
- If the area of construction is located within a Regulatory Floodway as delineated on the FIRM, any *development* must not increase base flood elevation levels. **The term *development* means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings, other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, and storage of equipment or materials.** A hydrologic and hydraulic analysis must be performed *prior* to the start of development, and must demonstrate that the development would not cause any rise in base flood levels. No rise is permitted within regulatory floodways.

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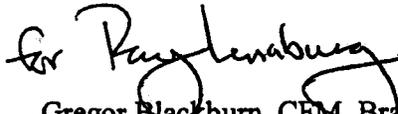
- All buildings constructed within a coastal high hazard area, (any of the "V" Flood Zones as delineated on the FIRM), must be elevated on pilings and columns, so that the lowest horizontal structural member, (excluding the pilings and columns), is elevated to or above the base flood elevation level. In addition, the posts and pilings foundation and the structure attached thereto, is anchored to resist flotation, collapse and lateral movement due to the effects of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all building components.
- Upon completion of any development that changes existing Special Flood Hazard Areas, the NFIP directs all participating communities to submit the appropriate hydrologic and hydraulic data to FEMA for a FIRM revision. In accordance with 44 CFR, Section 65.3, as soon as practicable, but not later than six months after such data becomes available, a community shall notify FEMA of the changes by submitting technical data for a flood map revision. To obtain copies of FEMA's Flood Map Revision Application Packages, please refer to the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/forms.shtm>.

**Please Note:**

Many NFIP participating communities have adopted floodplain management building requirements which are more restrictive than the minimum federal standards described in 44 CFR. Please contact the local community's floodplain manager for more information on local floodplain management building requirements. The City and County floodplain manager can be reached by calling Mario Siu-Li, NFIP Coordinator, at (808) 768-8098.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Cynthia McKenzie of the Mitigation staff at (510) 627-7190.

Sincerely,



Gregor Blackburn, CFM, Branch Chief  
Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch

**cc:**

Wayne Y. Yoshioka, Department of Transportation, City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii  
Mario Siu-Li, NFIP Coordinator, City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii  
Carol L. Tyau-Beam, NFIP State Coordinator, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Cynthia McKenzie, Senior Floodplanner, CFM, DHS/FEMA Region IX  
Alessandro Amaglio, Environmental Officer, DHS/FEMA Region IX