



FEMA

R8-MT

August 18, 2017

Received

AUG 22 2017

**Board of Morgan County
Commissioners**

Chairman James Zwetzig
PO Box 596
Fort Morgan, Colorado 80701

Dear Chairman Zwetzig:

Thank you for your letter dated March 29, 2017 requesting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) remove the floodway designation on Beaver Creek in the unincorporated areas south and east of the City of Brush, Colorado as shown on the preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) issued March 16, 2016.

Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §4102 and §4104 FEMA is responsible to identify and publish information on flood-prone areas in the United States. Since floods are the most devastating of all natural disasters it is imperative communities have accurate flood hazard information to make prudent land use decisions to protect property and lives.

The flood-prone area along Beaver Creek, including floodway designation, as shown on the preliminary FIRM is located in both Unincorporated Morgan County and the City of Brush. In order to maintain continuity in depicting flood risk the floodway designation cannot abruptly end at the city limits. Not only would this inaccurately portray the true risk it is also not consistent with standard engineering practices for hydrologic and hydraulic analysis.

As previously discussed on multiple occasions, including the May 16, 2017 public meeting in Fort Morgan, the City of Brush has rescinded their request to have the floodway designation removed. Therefore FEMA will move forward with the proposed flood hazard information as depicted on the preliminary FIRM.

Should a flood risk reduction project be implemented I encourage Morgan County to coordinate with this office to ensure the FIRM is revised to show any change and update to the flood risk. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at david.sutley@fema.dhs.gov or 303-235-4809.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Sutley", written over a horizontal line.

David Sutley
Senior Engineer

cc: Pam Cherry, Morgan County Floodplain Administrator
Stephanie DiBetitto, Colorado Water Conservation Board
Thuy Patton, Colorado Water Conservation Board