

JACKIE SPEIER  
14TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

2465 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0514  
(202) 225-3531  
FAX: (202) 226-4183

155 BOVET ROAD, SUITE 780  
SAN MATEO, CA 94402  
(650) 342-0300  
FAX: (650) 375-8270

WWW.SPEIER.HOUSE.GOV  
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JACKIESPEIER  
WWW.TWITTER.COM/REPSPEIER

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0514

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Senior Whip

August 2, 2016

W. Craig Fugate  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street, SW, Room 714  
Washington, DC 20472

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AUG 08 2016

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE

Dear Administrator Fugate:

It is my understanding that the City of San Bruno will soon submit a study of its flood plain status. This document will demonstrate that a significant portion of the city otherwise identified by FEMA as prone to flooding is in fact very unlikely to flood.

I respectfully request that FEMA give full and fair consideration to the city's submission. Without an amendment to the designation, hundreds of residents will have to purchase costly flood insurance for an event that the city's experts deem very, very unlikely. My staff has reviewed the report and informs me that it uses a sophisticated model to demonstrate that FEMA's initial determination is in error. I hope that FEMA's experts will be open to this methodology, and that your experts will contact the city's experts with any questions prior to coming to any conclusions.

I support the flood insurance program when it is appropriate that a property be identified as within a flood zone. Among other benefits, the health, safety and welfare of the public are benefitted when these zones are correctly identified. However, the public's interest is also best served when high quality science and well-reasoned analysis are used to determine risk. The City of San Bruno will be submitting a study that it believes has those characteristics. I respectfully urge FEMA to engage with the city to resolve any questions that may exist and to make the best scientific determination possible, in the interest of the public and consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

All the best,

  
Jackie Speier

cc:

City Council  
City of San Bruno  
567 El Camino Real  
San Bruno, CA 94066

KJS/bp