



**CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

100 Civic Center Drive  
Newport Beach, California 92660

949 644-3200

[newportbeachca.gov/communitydevelopment](http://newportbeachca.gov/communitydevelopment)

December 21, 2017

**Via E-Mail ([Edward.Curtis@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Edward.Curtis@fema.dhs.gov))**

Mr. Ed Curtis, Engineer  
FEMA Region IX  
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200  
Oakland, CA 94607

**Re: Acknowledgment of Extension of Time and Request for Confirmation of SRP Request Options**

**Case No.: 12-09-1324S  
Docket No.: FEMA-B-1673**

**Community: City of Newport Beach, CA  
Community No.: 060227**

Dear Mr. Curtis,

Thank you for your e-mail on December 20, 2017, granting the City of Newport Beach ("City") an extension until January 20, 2018, to respond to FEMA's letter dated December 21, 2017, requesting additional information regarding the City's appeal of FEMA's draft Flood Insurance Rate Map, Flood Insurance Study, and Base Flood Elevations. The City will provide the additional information on or before January 20, 2018, as outlined in the City's extension request dated December 6, 2017.

In addition to gathering the information responsive to FEMA's request, the City is still evaluating whether to exercise its option of requesting that its appeal be handled by a Scientific Resolution Panel ("SRP"). When FEMA acknowledged receipt of the City's appeal, FEMA issued the City (addressed to the Honorable Kevin Muldoon) a letter dated October 16, 2017, that, among other things, notified the City of the availability of a SRP as an option to resolve the appeal. FEMA enclosed a SRP Fact Sheet with the letter.

On page 2 of the Fact Sheet under "When Can Communities Request an SRP?" and on page 4 of the Fact Sheet under "FEMA Flood Mapping Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP) Timeline," there are references to two time periods when the City can request an SRP. The first is during the 60 to 120 day community consultation timeperiod that commences after the 90 day appeal period ends. It's the City's understanding that the appeal period ended on September 7, 2017, the community consultation period began on September 8, 2017, and the 120 day period to request an SRP ends on January 6, 2018. However, the Fact Sheet and Timeline also state that the City can request an SRP within 30 days after FEMA's issuance of a Resolution Letter if the City has not already requested an SRP. The City would like FEMA to confirm that, regardless of outcome, FEMA will issue the City a Resolution Letter regarding the appeal and the City will have 30 days after such issuance to request an SRP. The City would like to confirm this so that the City is not forced to make a decision on whether to request an SRP by January 6, 2018, and can instead wait for the issuance of a Resolution Letter to decide on whether to request an SRP. Please confirm that the City's understanding that FEMA will issue the City a Resolution Letter, regardless of outcome, is correct.

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Thank you and Happy Holidays. I really appreciate you taking the time to respond. It is of great help for us to launch our effort to provide FEMA as much information as possible for it to complete its review of the City's appeal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Ghosn', with a large initial 'S' and a stylized 'Ghosn'.

Samir Y. Ghosn, MS, PE, CBO  
Deputy Community Development Director | Chief Building Official  
City of Newport Beach

SG:ds

cc: Rick Sacbibit, Engineering Services Branch Chief, FEMA Federal Insurance & Mitigation Administration  
Juliette Hayes, Risk Analysis Branch Chief, FEMA Region IX  
Karin Ohman, CFM, Coastal Scientist, Michael Baker International  
Seimone Jurjis, Community Development Director, City of Newport Beach