

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**New Chatham Flood Insurance Rate Maps Available for Public Review**

RALEIGH – On two Tuesdays in December (Dec. 10 and Dec. 17, 2013), the residents and business communities of Chatham County (including the Towns of Siler City, Pittsboro and Cary) will have a chance to review and ask questions about preliminary copies of new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for the areas affected by the updates.

The maps will be on display from 4 to 7 pm on both Tuesdays, with a presentation at 5:30 pm. The Dec. 10, 2013 meeting location is Fire Station #8, 408 Mills Park Drive in Cary, while the Dec. 17, 2013 meeting location is the Chatham County Agricultural Building Auditorium (basement level), 65 East Street in Pittsboro.

Digital versions of these preliminary maps are currently available for public review online at <http://rfris.nc.gov/fris/>. Note that you can “toggle” between the Effective and Preliminary FIRM.

You also may view preliminary maps by contacting the Chatham County Planning Department at 919-542-8204 or the North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program (NCFMP) at 919-825-2302. Please note that all streams were not restudied.

The December public meetings provide an opportunity for residents to see the results of the revised studies and new flood maps. County and municipal employees will be on hand to help residents locate specific properties on the maps and determine their level of flood risk.

Representatives from the NCFMP will make a short presentation on the map update process, how the new maps can be used to reduce future losses due to flooding, how the new maps relate to flood insurance and floodplain management, as well as address any questions.

The floodplain map updates are the result of the August 2000 creation of the North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program that mandated updates of the maps for all counties in the state.

In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) entered into an important partnership by designating the State of North Carolina a Cooperating Technical State (CTS). This partnership gave the state the primary responsibility and ownership of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for all North Carolina communities by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

In 2007, the NCFMP completed its analyses of flood hazards and produced updated Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Reports in the digital seamless statewide format for Chatham County and related communities.

After this milestone was achieved, the NCFMP shifted its focus to keeping the flood hazard data current and accurate, specifically by handling map maintenance for Chatham County.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For more information on the North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program, visit the web site at <http://rfris.nc.gov/fris/>. More information on the public meeting can be obtained by contacting Jason Sullivan, Chatham County Planning Director, 919-542-8233; Dan LaMontagne, Chatham County Environmental Quality Director, 919-542-0945; Daniel Clinton, Town of Cary Stormwater Engineer, 919-380-2773; Stuart Bass, Town of Pittsboro Planning Director, 919-542-1655; Fred Royal, Town of Pittsboro Engineer, 919-542-2063; Jack Meadows, Siler City Planning Director, 919-742-2323 or Milton Carpenter, NFIP Planner, 919-825-2302.