



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
PLANNING DIVISION

February 20, 2019

RE: Possible Grant Funds to Help Homeowners Elevate Homes for Flood Protection

Dear Property Owner,

As you may know, your property has been identified as being in an area potentially vulnerable to flooding by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). You may benefit from elevating your structure so that the lowest floor is above flood levels – a common way to avoid flood damage. FEMA has a grant program to help homeowners elevate their homes in special flood hazard areas. The County of Marin, on behalf of West Marin County property owners, submitted a Notice of Intent to apply for FEMA grants for elevating homes under this program and we were notified that the County may receive up to \$3 million in funding. The next phase is to submit site specific grant applications with detailed information on the structures proposed to be elevated. If awarded, the program will provide funding to cover up to 75% of elevation costs to eligible homeowners in flood hazard areas.

The average costs of all elevation projects submitted to FEMA with this application cannot exceed \$243,337. Using the information provided on the attached worksheet, Marin County staff will determine a cost estimate for each home. This value will only serve as an estimate for the purpose of this application, and should not serve as basis for estimating the actual cost of construction, permitting, design or any other work which may be supported by this grant opportunity. If you are interested in participating in this grant program, you must be able to pay 25% of the cost of raising your structure. If you fall within the Federal Guidelines of low-income, the County will explore local sources to cover the matching requirement. Depending on the number of applications received, a variety of criteria may be applied to determine which applications should be included. This criteria may include: annual income, flood risks, and others. County staff can determine if your property may be exposed to three feet of sea level rise by 2100. If you fall within an area potentially exposed to future sea level rise, please indicate if you are willing to elevate your property three additional feet above the Base Flood Elevation to be prepared. The final grant decision is made by FEMA based on overall benefits of your project relative to those of other applicants. **No commitment needs to be made to apply, but you do need to complete the attached worksheet.**

We have posted more information, including frequently asked questions to www.marinslr.org. Please read this information carefully before applying because FEMA funding does come with restrictions; such as the requirement that the **property record a deed restriction requiring flood insurance**. Following grant award and approval by FEMA, individual contracts will be competitively bid by County to comply with federal requirements (2 CFR Sections 200.318 through 200.326).

Please take a moment to review these items. **If you would like to participate please fill out the attached worksheet and return it to the County.** We must receive your completed application no later than **March 22, 2019** so we are able to prepare the FEMA application on your behalf prior to the April 18, 2019 deadline. If you have any questions please contact Alex Westhoff at awesthoff@marincounty.org or (415) 473-7874. Please email or mail your completed worksheet to Mr. Westhoff at the address in the worksheet.

Sincerely,


Jack Liebster, Planning Manager