



TOWNSHIP OF TOMS RIVER

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: FEMA
From: Robert J. Chankalian, PE, CME Township Engineer
Subject: 2009 Biennial Report
Date: September 2009
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Toms River continues to have a number of Severe Repetitive Loss properties within its boundaries, 109+/- . Most of these properties were post war, pre FIRM construction on the barrier island. Toms River has made several improvements in its efforts to increase public awareness of the Flood Insurance Rate Program in the last 18 months to remedy this. The Township has invested in an upgraded website and a GIS system to help it maintain, monitor and inform the public.

The new website now provides an informational news letter available 24/7 as a supplement to the mailing notification that use to take place once a year in the tax bill mailing. In addition, the Township has added a link to the FEMA FIRMET website where residents can perform their own flood zone determinations.

The GIS mapping software has allowed us to increase our direct mailing of an informational news letter to SRL properties and properties in their vicinity. Eventually, the Township plans on providing a web based version of the GIS so that residents, realtors, attorneys and other professionals can more easily access flood zone information.

This year one SRL property has been raised above the BFE. Unfortunately the resident was not able to benefit from any funding. Somewhere along the process he was advised by an insurance agent that his project did not qualify. During construction he obtained a FEMA pamphlet and approached our office. We tried to see if a grant could be provided retroactively, even though construction was in effect at the time but we were advised that since construction had already started nothing could be done. This is something that I feel still needs to be revisited since the process that is being offered to remedy a SRL was not achievable.

Due to the relatively low elevation of the barrier island and the Bay front areas Toms River does what it can to reduce flooding events by way of installing local flood valves on outfall pipes. Approximately 15 valves have been installed in 2008. At some point however, due to the naturally low terrain and the proximity to the Ocean and Bay we must solely rely on elevated construction to minimize flood damage. The building

department does require compliance with the NJDEP Flood Hazard and CAFRA rules which mandate the first floor to be 12" minimum above the 100 year BFE.

With regard to future mitigation it is the Township's understanding that the County is working on a Flood Mitigation Plan. That process seems to have made progress in the last 12 months. It is Tom's Rivers intent to adopt the approved plan once it is finalized.