

RESOLUTION 13-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTON LAKES, TEXAS IN OPPOSITION TO FEMA RISK RATING 2.0; ANY EFFORT REQUIRING MANDATORY PURCHASE OF FLOOD INSURANCE FOR PROPERTIES PROTECTED BY LEVEES; AND THE USE OF LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM DOLLARS FOR FEMA LEVEES RISK ASSESSMENT RATHER THAN LEVEE ENHANCED PROTECTION MEASURES.

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WHEREAS, Fort Bend County is the fastest growing county in the Greater Houston area and is the third fastest growing county in the State of Texas since 2010 and is expected to double its population over the next 20 - 25 years; and

WHEREAS, the coastal and riverine areas throughout the nation account for 40% of the population, 40% of the jobs and 46% of the Gross Domestic Product; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bend County, like other Riverine and Coastal communities, relies on affordable and available flood insurance to remain competitive and continue its economic success; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Bend County's Levee Systems provide flood mitigation and protection for over 27% of Fort Bend County's \$100 billion market value; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), with the assistance from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), intends to introduce a new flood insurance rating system called Risk Rating 2.0, "Equity in Action", which may include making flood insurance mandatory for properties protected by levees even if they are accredited, and divert limited resources intended to increase levee safety to levee risk assessments; and

WHEREAS, neither FEMA nor USACE have disclosed the underlying assumptions, data, models, confidence intervals, rates, program costs, premiums collected, claims paid, Write Your Own (WYO) private insurer payments, interest payments on NFIP Program debt or allowed the public or Congress time to digest or comment on these proposed changes that replace the existing floodplain program that has been used for over 50 years; and

WHEREAS, these rates and methods have not undergone scrutiny, have not complied with the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), the Information Quality Act (IQA) or gone through a federal rulemaking proceeding taxpayers would expect in such circumstances;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTON LAKES, TEXAS:

Section 1. That the City Council opposes:

- a) the introduction of FEMA's Risk Rating 2.0, "Equity in Action", unless such introduction complies with the APA, IQA and follows the federal rulemaking process;
- b) any effort to require mandatory purchase of flood insurance for properties protected by accredited levees (NFIP Reauthorization Section 209); and
- c) diversion of funds from the USACE levee safety program intended for improvements to levee risk assessments.

Section 2. That the City Council believes it is important for FEMA to seek input and advice from state and local governments on issues that have a direct impact on their residents.

Section 3. That the City Council expects FEMA to fully understand the implications of Risk Rating 2.0 on residents living in coastal and riverine areas.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE _____ DAY OF AUGUST 2021.

Ramona Neal, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jenni McJunkin
City Secretary