



## News Release

**For Immediate Release  
August 11, 2008**

Media Contacts: County of Sacramento Communication and Media Officer, Lisa Park (916) 874-1515  
City of Sacramento Media and Communication Specialist, Jessica Hess (916) 808-8260  
City of Sacramento Program Manager, Wendy Klock-Johnson (916) 808-5099

### **Sacramento City and County Remind Residents, Builders and Developers of Local Building Permit Restrictions**

*In December, New Natomas Flood Zone Designation will Restrict Permits. City and County Recommend Builders Plan Ahead.*

Sacramento City and County officials encourage builders to plan ahead as they look to build in the Natomas floodplain. This floodplain, bounded by the American River on the South, the Sacramento River to the West, the Natomas Cross Canal to the North and the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal (Steelhead Creek) to the East will be officially re-zoned by the Federal Management Agency (FEMA) in December. The flood zone designation in Natomas will change from Zone X to Zone AE and will place Natomas into a Special Flood Hazard Area. The AE flood zone designation will require all new buildings permitted after the new map goes into effect to be elevated above base flood elevation.

### **The new base flood elevation in Natomas will be 33.0 feet (above sea level) and will be effective December 8, 2008.**

Because of this new requirement Sacramento officials are encouraging applicants to submit their completed applications along with all necessary project information as soon as they can should they desire to obtain a permit prior to the deadline. It can take several months to process permit applications depending on the type of project and completeness of the application. Builders and Developers who **are issued** new building permits before the December deadline will be able to build as planned and will not be required to meet the new base flood elevation requirement provided:

- All permit fees must be paid in full at time of permit issuance.
- All permits necessary for construction must be **issued** prior to the Zone AE effective date of December 8, 2008.
- The permittee must start construction within 180 days of the date the permit is issued.

This does not affect minor permits (such as permits for hot water heater, toilet, or fan). It only impacts permits for new buildings and for substantial improvements to existing buildings. Homeowners, contractors and other applicants should direct questions regarding the upcoming flood zone change to their respective contacts.

- For permits within City of Sacramento limits: City of Sacramento Floodplain Hotline, 808-5061 or City of Sacramento Development Services Counter, 808-5656
- For permits within County of Sacramento limits: George Booth, Senior Civil Engineer, 874-6484.

### **City and County permit applications can be submitted at their respective locations.**

City of Sacramento Development Services  
Permit Counter  
300 Richards Blvd, Third Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

County of Sacramento  
Land Division & Site Improvement  
Review (LDSIR)  
Permit Counter  
827 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 102  
Sacramento, CA 95814

###