

**THE COUNTY OF BRAZORIA**

**REVISED**

**BUILDING REGULATIONS AS REQUIRED**

**BY**

**THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE ACT**

**TITLE 42**

**THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT**

**COUNTY JUDGE**

**JOHN WILLY**

**COUNTY COMMISIONERS**

**DUDE PAYNE, Precinct 1**

**JAMES CLAWSON, Precinct 2**

**JACK HARRIS, Precinct 3**

**LARRY STANLEY, Precinct 4**

NFIP REGULATIONS 60.3 (d) & (e)  
*Adopted May 24, 2005*  
*Amended October 24, 2006*

**FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION REGULATIONS  
OUTLINE**

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# **FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION REGULATIONS**

## **ARTICLE 1**

### **STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION, FINDING OF FACT, PURPOSE AND METHODS**

#### **SECTION A. STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION**

The Legislature of the State of Texas has in Acts of the 61<sup>st</sup> Legislature, 1969, Page 2107, Chapter 2720 (Art 1581 (e) –V.A.T.C.S.) and Page 2313, Chapter 782 (Art 8280-13 V.A.T.C.S.) delegated the responsibility to the local governmental units to adopt regulations designed to minimize flood losses.

The Legislature of the State of Texas has in Section 16.311 *et. seq.* of the Texas Water Code and Section 240.901 of the Local Government Code authorized local governmental units to adopt regulations designed to regulate land use and minimize flood losses.

Therefore, the Commissioners Court of Brazoria County, Texas, does ordain as follows:

#### **SECTION B. FINDINGS OF FACT**

- (1) The flood hazard areas of Brazoria County are subject to periodic inundation which results in loss of life and property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, and extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety and general welfare.
- (2) These flood losses are created by the cumulative effect of obstructions in floodplains which cause increase in flood heights and velocities, and by the occupancy of flood hazard areas by uses vulnerable to floods and hazardous to other lands because they are inadequately elevated, flood-proofed or otherwise protected from flood damage.
- (3) It is hereby found by the Commissioners Court of Brazoria County that severe flooding has occurred in the past within its jurisdiction and is likely to occur in the future, and that damage to property occurs for many reasons including flooding from the tidal waters of the Gulf of Mexico and that the entire area within its jurisdiction is a rising water prone area.

#### **SECTION C. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

It is the purpose of these regulations to promote the public health, safety and general welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to the flood conditions in specific areas by provisions designed to:

- (1) Protect human life and health;

- (2) Minimize expenditures of public money for costly flood control projects;
- (3) Minimize the need for rescue and relief efforts associated with flooding and generally undertaken at the expense of the general public;
- (4) Minimize prolonged business interruptions;
- (5) Minimize damage to public facilities and utilities such as water and gas mains, electric, telephone and sewer lines, streets and bridges located in the floodplains;
- (6) Help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of flood-prone areas in such manner as to minimize future flood blight areas; and
- (7) Insure that potential buyers are notified that property is in a flood area.

#### **SECTION D. METHODS OF REDUCING FLOOD LOSSES**

In order to accomplish its purposes, this regulation uses the following methods;

- (1) Restrict or prohibit uses that are dangerous to health, safety or property in times of flood, or cause excessive increase in flood heights or velocities;
- (2) Require that uses vulnerable to floods, including facilities which serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction;
- (3) Control the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers, which are involved in the accommodations of flood waters;
- (4) Control filling, grading, dredging, and other development which may increase flood damage;
- (5) Prevent or regulate the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert flood waters or which may increase flood hazards to other lands.

#### **SECTION E. SEVERABILITY**

It is the intention of these regulations that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of these regulations are severable; and if any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of these regulations shall be declared void, ineffective or unconstitutional by a valid judgment or final decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases hereof, since the same would have been enacted by this Court without the incorporation herein of any such unconstitutional section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase.

## **ARTICLE 2 DEFINITIONS**

Unless specifically defined below, words or phrases used in these regulations shall be interpreted to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give this regulation its most reasonable application.

**APPEAL** – means a request for a review of the Floodplain Administrator’s interpretation of any provision of this regulation or a request for a variance.

**AREAS OF SHALLOW FLOODING** – means a designated AO, AH, VO zones on a community’s Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with a one percent chance or greater annual chance of flooding to an average depth of one to three feet where a clearly defined channel does not exist, where the path of flooding is unpredictable and where velocity flow may be evident. Such flooding is characterized by ponding or sheet flow.

**AREA OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD** – is the land in the floodplain within a community subject to a one-percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. The area may be designated as Zone A on the Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM). After detailed ratemaking has been completed in preparation for publication of the FIRM, Zone A usually is refined into Zones A, AE, AH, AO, A1-99, VO, V1-30, VE or V.

**BASE FLOOD** – means the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

**BASEMENT** – means any area of the building having its floor subgrade below ground level.

**BREAKAWAY WALLS** – means a wall that is not part of the structural support of the building and is intended through its design and construction to collapse under specific lateral loading forces, without causing damage to the elevated portion of the building or supporting foundation system.

**BUILDING PERMIT** – means the same as a development permit or permit.

**COASTAL HIGH HAZARD AREA** – means the area subject to high velocity waters, including but not limited to hurricane wave wash or tsunamis. The area is designated on a FIRM as Zone V1-30, VE or V.

**CRITICAL FEATURE** – means an integral and readily identifiable part of a flood protection system, without which the flood protection provided by the entire system would be compromised.

**DEVELOPMENT** – means any man-made change in improved and/or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations.

**DEVELOPMENT PERMIT** – means a permit for the construction of a development. Also called a building permit or permit in these regulations.

**ELEVATED BUILDING** – means a non-basement building (i) built, in the case of a building in Zones A1-30, AE, A, A99, A0, AH, B, C, X, and D, to have the top of the elevated floor, or in the case of a building in Zones V1-30, VE, or V, to have the bottom of the lowest horizontal structure member of the elevated floor elevated above the ground level by means of piling, columns, (post or piers), or shear walls parallel to the flow of the water and (ii) adequately anchored so as not to impair the structural integrity of the building during a flood of up to the magnitude of the base flood.

In the case of Zones V1-30, VE, or V, “elevated building” also includes a building otherwise meeting the definition of “elevated building”, even though the lower areas is enclosed by means of breakaway walls meet the standards, of Section 60.3 (e) (5) of the National Flood Program Regulations.

**EXISTING CONSTRUCTION** – means for the purpose of determining rates, structures for which the “start of construction” commenced before the effective date of the FIRM or before January 1, 1975, for FIRM’s effective before that date. “Existing construction” may also be referred to as “existing structure.”

**EXISTING MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION** – means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed, (including, at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads), is completed before the effective date of the floodplain management regulations adopted by a community.

**EXPANSION TO AN EXISTING MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION**– means the preparation of additional sites by the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including the installation of utilities, the construction of the streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads).

**FLOOD OR FLOODING** – means a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from:

1. The overflow of inland or tidal waters.
2. The unusual and rapid accumulation of runoff of surface waters from any source.

**FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM)** – means a Federal Emergency Management Agency official map of a community, on which the Federal Emergency Management Agency has delineated both the areas of special flood hazards and the risk of premium zones applicable to the community.

**FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY** – is the official report provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The report contains flood profiles, water surface elevation of the base flood, as well as the Flood Boundary-Floodway Map.

**FLOODPLAIN** – means any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any source (see definition of flooding).

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT** – means the operation of an overall program of corrective and preventive measures for reducing flood damage, including but not limited to emergency preparedness plans, flood control works and floodplain management regulations.

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS** – means zoning ordinances, subdivisions regulations, building codes, health regulations, special purpose ordinances (such as a floodplain ordinance, grading ordinance and erosion control ordinance) and other applications of police power. The term describes such state or local regulations, in any combination thereof, which provide standards for the purpose of flood damage prevention and reduction.

**FLOOD PRONE AREA** – means an area that is subject to damage from rising water or flooding from the Gulf of Mexico or its tidal waters, including lakes, bays, inlets, and lagoons.

**FLOOD PROOFING** – means any combination of structural and non-structural additions, changes, or adjustments to structures which reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved real property, water and sanitary facilities, structures and their contents.

**FLOOD PROTECTION SYSTEM** – means those physical structural works for which funds have been authorized, appropriated, and expended and which have been constructed specifically to modify flooding in order to reduce the extent of the areas within a community subject to a “special flood hazard” and the extent of the depths of associated flooding. Such a system typically includes hurricane tidal barriers, dams, reservoirs, levees or dikes. These specialized flood modifying works are those constructed in conformance with the sound engineering standards.

**FLOODWAY (REGULATORY FLOODWAY)** – means that channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height

**FREEBOARD** – means a factor of safety usually expressed in feet above a flood level for purposes of floodplain management. “Freeboard” tends to compensate for the many unknown factors that could contribute to flood heights greater than the height calculated for a selected size flood and floodway condition, such as a wave action, bridge openings, and the hydrological effect of urbanization of the watershed.

**FUNCTIONALLY DEPENDENT USE** – means a use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities, port facilities that are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or

passengers, and ship building and ship repair facilities, but does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities.

**HABITABLE FLOOR** – means any floor usable for the following purpose; which includes working, sleeping, eating, cooking or recreation, or a combination thereof. A floor used for storage purpose only is not a habitable floor.

**HIGHEST ADJACENT GRADE** – means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed wall of a structure.

**LEVEE** – means a man-made structure, usually an earthen embankment, designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices to contain, control, or divert the flow of water so as to provide protection from temporary flooding.

**LEVEE SYSTEM** – means a flood protection system which consist of a levee, or levees, and associated structures, such as closure and drainage devices, which are constructed and operated in accordance with sound engineering practices.

**LOWEST FLOOR** – means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, used solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage in an area other than a basement area is not considered a buildings lowest floor; provided that such an enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirement of Section 60.3 of the National Flood Insurance Program regulation.

**MANUFACTURED HOME** – means a structure as defined under Chapter 1201.003 (9), (15), and (17) of the Texas Occupation Code – Manufactured Housing – including transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities. For floodplain management purposes the term “manufactured homes” also includes park trailers, travel trailers, and other similar vehicles placed on a site for greater than 180 consecutive days. For insurance purposes the term “manufactured homes” does not include park trailers, travel trailers, or other similar vehicles.

**MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION** – means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.

**MEAN SEA LEVEL** – means, for the purpose of the National Flood Insurance Program, the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929 or other datum, to which base flood elevations shown on a community’s Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) is referenced.

**NEW CONSTRUCTION** – means for floodplain management purposes, structures for which the “start of construction” commenced on or after the effective date of a floodplain management regulation adopted by a community.

**NEW MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION** – means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed, (including at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads), is completed on or after the effective date of floodplain management regulations adopted by a community.

**PERSON** – means an individual, sole proprietorship, corporation, nonprofit corporation, partnership, joint venture, organization and/or limited liability company.

**RECREATIONAL VEHICLE** – means a vehicle which is built on a single chassis; 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projections; self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

**RISING WATER** – means the increase in level and/or intensity of an overflowing of water onto normally dry land.

**SAND DUNES** – means naturally occurring accumulation of sand ridges or mounds landward of a beach.

**START OF CONSTRUCTION** – for other than new construction or substantial improvements under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (Pub.L. 97-348). Includes substantial improvement and means the date the permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, placement or other improvement was within 180 days of the permit date. The actual start means either the first placement of permanent construction of a structure on a site, such as pouring of a slab or footing, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufactured home on a foundation. Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading and filling; nor does it include the installation of the streets, and/or walkways; nor does it include excavation for basement, footing, piers or foundations or the erection of temporary forms; nor does it include the installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main structure.

**STRUCTURE** – means a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home.

**SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE** – means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before damaged condition would equal or exceed fifty (50%) percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

**SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS** – means any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or improvement of structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds fifty (50%) percent of the market value of the structure before “start of construction”, of the improvement. This includes structures which have incurred “substantial damage”, regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either: (1) Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code

specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary conditions or (2) any alteration of a “historic structure”, provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure’s continued designation as a “historic structure”.

**TEXAS OPEN BEACHES ACT** – this statute, enacted by the Texas Legislature in 1959, prohibits encroachment by private owners on the area seaward of the line of vegetation in areas fronting on the Gulf of Mexico.

**TOPOGRAPHY** – means the description of the three dimensional shape of the land surface based upon elevation contours. For purposes of determining if a development permit is required, an alteration of topography is considered to occur if fill placement is applied greater than 20 loads (300 cubic yards) or grading changes result in the modification to existing drainage and/or the increase in any elevation by six (6) inches or more. Determinations and clarifications to be provided by the County Floodplain Administrator. (*Amended October 24, 2006*).

**UTILITY** – means a person, as defined herein, engaged in this State in the

- a. generation, transmission, or distribution and sale of electric power;
- b. transportation, distribution and sale through a local distribution system of natural or other gas for domestic, commercial, industrial, or other use;
- c. ownership or operation of a pipeline for the transmission or sale of natural or other gas, natural gas liquids, crude oil or petroleum products to other pipeline companies, refineries, local distribution systems, municipalities, or industrial consumers;
- d. provision of telephone or telegraph service to others;
- e. production, transmission, or distribution and sale of steam or water;
- f. operation of a railroad; and
- g. the provisions of sewer service to others.

**VARIANCE** – is a grant of relief to a person from the requirements of this regulation when specific enforcement would result in unnecessary hardship. A variance, therefore, permits construction or development in a manner otherwise prohibited by this regulation. (For full requirements see Section 60.6 of the National Flood Insurance Program regulations.)

**VIOLATION** – means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community’s floodplain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in Section 60.3(b) (5), (c) (4), (d) (3), (e) (2), (e) (4), or (e) (5) is presumed to be in violation until at such time the documentation is provided.

**WATER SURFACE ELEVATION** – means the height, in relation to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929, (or other datum, where specified), of floods of various magnitudes and frequencies in the floodplains of coastal or riverine areas.

**ARTICLE 3  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**SECTION A. LAND TO WHICH THIS REGULATION APPLIES**

These regulations shall apply to all unincorporated areas within the jurisdiction of Brazoria County, Texas.

**SECTION B. BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING THE AREAS OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD**

The areas of special flood hazard identified by the Federal Management Agency is a scientific and engineering report entitled "The Flood Insurance Study for Brazoria County," dated September 22, 1999, with accompanying Flood Insurance rate Maps and Flood Boundary-Floodway Maps (FIRM and FBFM) and any revisions thereto are hereby adopted by reference and declared to be a part of these regulations.

**SECTION C. ESTABLISHING A DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**

A development permit shall be required to ensure conformance with the provisions of these regulations for any fully enclosed structure over 200 sq. feet (*i.e.* barn, garage, workshop, storage building) and/or the development of improved or unimproved real estate as defined in these regulations.

No person shall erect, construct, enlarge, alter, repair, or improve any building or development structure or manufactured housing as defined under Chapter 1201.003 (9), (15), and (17) of the Texas Occupation Code, Manufactured Housing, or alter the topography that would affect others or violate Section 11.086 of the Texas Water Code in the applicable jurisdiction, or cause such to be done, without first obtaining a separate building permit for such buildings or structures from the Floodplain Administrator.

**SECTION D. COMPLIANCE**

No structure or lands shall hereafter be located, altered, or have its use change without full compliance with the terms of these regulations and other applicable regulations.

If a person has violated, is violating or is threatening to violate this Ordinance in any manner, the County may institute a civil suit in the appropriate court for injunctive relief to restrain the person from continuing the violation or threat of violation including, but not limited to, an order directing the person to remove illegal improvements and restore preexisting conditions. In addition, a person who violates this Ordinance is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$100.00 for each act of violation and for each day of violation.

Any person who diverts or impounds the natural flow of surface waters or permits a diversion or impounding by him to continue in a manner that damages the property of another by the overflow of the water diverted or impounded may be subject to a civil suit in the appropriate

court for injunctive relief to restrain the person from continuing the violation and directing the person to remove illegal improvements and restore the property to preexisting conditions and seek a civil penalty of \$100.00 for each act of violation and for each day of the violation.

County shall file against any parcel of land that is in violation of this ordinance a notice in the real property records identifying any condition on the property that the County determines violates the rules adopted by this Ordinance.

The County shall notify a mortgage holder and the flood insurance carrier of any violations of these regulations and identify the owner, developer, and tract of land affected.

No Person may provide utility services that connect the land and/or improvements with utility services without written certification from the County that the property complies with rules adopted.

#### **SECTION E. ABROGATION AND GREATER RESTRICTIONS**

These regulations are not intended to repel, abrogate, or impair any existing easements, covenants or deed restrictions. However, where these regulations and other restrictions conflict or overlap, whichever imposes the more stringent restrictions shall prevail.

#### **SECTION F. INTERPRETATION**

In the interpretation and application of these regulations, all provisions shall be (1) considered as minimum requirements; (2) liberally construed in favor of the government body; and (3) deemed neither to limit nor repeal any other powers granted under State statutes.

#### **SECTION G. WARNING AND DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

The degree of flood protection required by these regulations is reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on scientific and engineering considerations. On rare occasions, greater floods can and will occur and flood heights may be increased by man-made or natural causes. This regulation does not imply that the land outside the areas of the special flood hazards or uses permitted within such areas will be free from flooding or flood damage. These regulations shall not create liability on the part of the community or any official or employee therefore for any flood damage that result from the reliance on these regulations or any administrative decision lawfully made thereunder.

### **ARTICLE 4 ADMINISTRATION**

#### **SECTION A. SCOPE**

Subject to Article 3, Section C, provisions of this regulation shall apply to all new construction or development, proposed subdivisions, proposed manufactured home communities and/or manufactured housing as defined under Chapter 1201.003 (9), (15), and (17) of the Texas

Occupation Code, Manufactured Housing, alter the topography that would affect others or violate Section 11.086 of the Texas Water Code, and to the construction, alteration, repair, use, location, or maintenance of every building or structure or any appurtenances connected to or attached to such buildings or structures, within the designated area affected by this regulation.

No person shall erect, construct, enlarge, alter, repair, or improve any building, development structure or manufactured housing as defined under Chapter 1201.003 (9), (15), and (17) of the Texas Occupation Code, Manufactured Housing, or alter the topography that would affect others or violate Section 11.086 of the Texas Water Code, in the applicable jurisdiction, or cause such to be done without first obtaining a separate building permit for such buildings or structures from the Floodplain Administrator.

#### **SECTION B. DESIGNATION OF THE FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR**

The Floodplain Administrator is hereby appointed to administer and implement the provisions of these regulations and other appropriate sections of 44CFR (National Flood Insurance Program Regulations) pertaining to floodplain management.

#### **SECTION C. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR**

Duties and responsibilities of the Floodplain Administrator shall include, but not limited to, the following;

1. Maintain and hold open for the public inspection all records pertaining to the provisions of these regulations.
2. Review permit application to determine whether proposed building site will be reasonably safe from flooding.
3. Review, approve or deny all applications for development permits required by adoption of these regulations.
4. Review permits for proposed development to assure all necessary permits have been obtained from those Federal, State or local governmental agencies (including Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, 33 U.S.C.1334) from which prior approval is required.
5. Where interpretation is needed as to the exact location of the boundaries of the areas of special flood hazards (for example, where there appears to be a conflict between a mapped boundary and actual field conditions) the Floodplain Administrator shall make the necessary interpretation.
6. Notify, in riverine situations, adjacent communities and the Texas Water Commission, prior to any alteration or relocation of a watercourse, and submit evidence of such notification to the Federal Emergency Management.

7. Assure that the flood carrying capacity within the altered or relocated watercourse is maintained.
8. When base flood elevation data has not been provided in accordance with Article 3, Section B, the Floodplain Administrator shall obtain, review and reasonably utilize any base flood elevation data available from a Federal, State or other source, in order to administer the provisions of Article 5.
9. When a regulatory floodway has not been designated, the Floodplain Administrator must require that no new construction, substantial improvements, or other development (including fill) shall be permitted within Zones A and AE on the communities FIRM, unless it is demonstrated that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one foot at any point within the community.
10. The Floodplain Administrator, or his duly authorized representative, may enter any building, structure, or premises to perform any duties imposed upon him by this regulation.
11. Determine non-compliance with diversion or impoundment of the natural flow of surface waters and referral to the District Attorney's Office for enforcement when necessary.
12. Administer and enforce Local Government Code §240.901 and rules adopted by the Brazoria County Commissioners Court as it relates to the connection of utility services and referral to the District Attorney's Office for enforcement when necessary.
13. Upon notice from an affected drainage district or the Brazoria County Engineer's Office that the work on any building, structure, dike, bridge, or any improvement which would affect water drainage, is being done contrary to the provisions of this regulation, contrary to the site and/or building plans approved by an affected drainage district or the County Engineer, or in a dangerous or unsafe manner, such work shall be immediately stopped. Such notice shall be in writing and shall be given to the owner of the property or to his agent, or to the person doing the work. Where an emergency exists, no written notice shall be required to be given by the Floodplain Administrator and referral to the District Attorney's Office for enforcement when necessary.
14. Any violation of a plan approved by a drainage district or failure to obtain a required drainage plan from a drainage district under Chapter 49 of the Texas Water Code shall be considered a violation of this order. Usage of a drainage plain mandated by a drainage district is an essential aspect of this Order.

15. Floodplain Administrator may revoke a permit issued under the provisions of this regulation if there has been any false statement or misrepresentation as to a material fact in the application or plans upon which the permit or approval was based.
16. File against any parcel of land that is in violation of this ordinance a notice in the real property records identifying any condition on the property that the Floodplain Administrator determines violates the rules adopted by this Ordinance.
17. Notify a mortgage holder and a flood insurance carrier of any violations of these regulations and identify the owner, developer, and tract of land affected.
18. Provide written certification to the appropriate utility services that a property owner may connect utility services once they have complied with County regulations.

#### **SECTION D. PERMIT PROCEDURES**

1. When required:
  - a. When anyone desires to construct a development as defined herein, a development permit is required.
  - b. Ordinary and minor repairs may be made without a permit provided that such repairs shall not violate any of the provisions of this regulation.
  - c. **Where construction is commenced before a permit is obtained, the permit fee shall be doubled.**
2. Application for a Development Permit shall be presented to the Floodplain Administrator on forms furnished by him/her and shall include plans in duplicate drawn to scale showing the following:
  - a. the location, dimensions, and elevation of proposed landscape alterations;
  - b. existing and proposed structures;
  - c. the location of the foregoing in relation to areas in the special flood hazard; and
  - d. Relationship to all easements and roadways.
3. If a watercourse or natural drainage will be altered or relocated as a result of proposed development, a certificate and/or permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District authorizing the changes shall be provided to the Floodplain Administrator prior to beginning any development.
4. Developer and/or owner shall provide to the Floodplain Administrator information pertaining to the mortgage holder and flood insurance carrier for property being developed and for structures being built.

5. Commercial Structures, Public Buildings or Structures 5,000 Sq. Ft. or More:
  - a. Any person who intends to build a structure of 5,000 sq. feet or more or any commercial and/or public structure shall submit building plans and specifications to the drainage district in which the structure will be erected.
  - b. If no drainage district exists for that area, then the person shall provide the building plans and specifications to a Texas professional engineer to prepare a site study and then submit the site study to the Brazoria County Engineer's Office for approval.
  - c. Brazoria County has a Fire Code for commercial and public structures. Any commercial or public structure of this nature must be inspected and permitted under the fire code. No Building Permit shall be issued until a Fire Code Permit has been approved by the Brazoria County Emergency Management Department and provided to the Brazoria County Flood Plain Administrator.
6. Brazoria County has in effect a Drainage Criteria Manual. All development must comply with the requirements of the Manual. Its contents and regulations are herein incorporated by reference. A copy of the Manual may be obtained from either the Brazoria County Clerk or the Brazoria County Engineer's Office.
7. A final signature on the Fire Code Permit shall be provided to the Floodplain administrator within 30 days of completion of the commercial and/or public structure.
8. Additionally, the following information SHALL be provided to the Floodplain Administrator within six (6) months of obtaining a development permit:
  - a. Elevation of the natural ground, in relation to mean sea level, of the lowest floor (including basement) of all new and substantially improved structures;
  - b. Elevation in relation to mean sea level to which any nonresidential structure shall be floodproofed;
  - c. A certificate from a registered professional engineer or architect that the nonresidential floodproofed structure shall meet the floodproofing criteria of Article 5, Section B (2);
  - d. Description of the extent to which any watercourse or natural drainage will be altered or relocated as a result of proposed development;
  - e. Maintain a record of all such information in accordance with Article 4, Section (B) (1).

9. Approval or denial of a Development Permit by the Floodplain Administrator shall be based on all of the provisions of all of these regulations and the following relevant factors:
  - a. The danger to life and property due to the flooding or erosion damage;
  - b. The susceptibility of the proposed facility and its contents to flood damage and the effect of such damage on the individual owner;
  - c. The danger that materials may be swept onto other lands to the injury of others;
  - d. The compatibility of the proposed use with existing and anticipated development;
  - e. The safety of access to the property in times of flood for ordinary and emergency vehicle;
  - f. The cost of providing governmental services during and after flood conditions including maintenance and repair of streets and bridges, and public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems;
  - g. The expected heights, velocity, duration, rate of rise and sediment transport of the flood water and the effects of wave action if applicable, expected at the site;
  - h. The necessity to the facility of a waterfront location, where applicable;
  - i. The availability of alternative locations, not subject to flooding or erosion damage, for the purpose of use;
  - j. The relationship of the proposed use to the comprehensive plan for that area.
10. An Application for a permit for any proposed work shall be deemed void six (6) months after the date of filing, unless before then a permit shall have been issued; provided that, for cause, one or more extensions of time for periods of not exceeding ninety (90) days each shall be allowed by the Floodplain Administrator.

#### **SECTION E. EXISTING BUILDINGS**

1. If additions or repairs that would affect FEMA regulations costing fifty-one percent (51%) or more of the current market value of the building are made to an existing building, such building shall be made to conform to the requirements of this regulation for new buildings.
2. If an existing building is damaged by fire or otherwise fifty-one percent (51%) or more than market value before such damage is repaired and would affect FEMA

regulations, it shall be made to conform to the requirements of this regulation for new buildings.

3. For the purpose of this section, market value of the building shall be determined based upon the appraised value.

## **SECTION F. VARIANCE PROCEDURES**

1. The Brazoria County Commissioners Court shall hear and render judgment on request for variance from the requirements of this regulation.
2. The Brazoria County Commissioners Court shall hear and render judgement on an appeal only when it is alleged there is an error in any requirement, decision, or determination made by the Floodplain Administrator in the enforcement or administration of these regulations.
3. Any person or persons aggrieved by the decision of the Brazoria County Commissioners' Court may appeal such a decision in the courts of competent jurisdiction.
4. The Floodplain Administrator shall maintain a record of all actions involving an appeal and shall report variances to the Federal Emergency Management Agency upon request.
5. Variances may be issued for the reconstruction, rehabilitation or restoration of structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places or the State Inventory of Historic Places, without regard to the procedures set forth in the remainder of these regulations.
6. Variances may be issued for new construction and substantial improvements to be erected on a lot of one-half acre or less in size contiguous to and surrounded by lots with existing structures constructed below the base flood level, providing the relevant factors in Section C(2) of this Article have been fully considered. As the lot size increases beyond the one-half acre, the technical justification required for issuing a variance increases.
7. Upon consideration of the factors noted above and the intent of this Court order, the Brazoria County Commissioners' Court may attach such conditions to the granting of variances as it deems necessary to further the purpose and objectives of this regulation (Article 1, Section C)
8. Variances shall not be issued within any designated floodway if any increase in flood levels during the base flood discharge would result.
9. Prerequisites for granting variances:

- a. Variances shall only be issued upon a determination that the variance is the minimum necessary, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief;
  - b. Variances shall only be issued upon, (i) showing a good and sufficient cause; (ii) a determination that failure to grant the variance would result in exceptional hardship to the applicant; and (iii) a determination that the granting of a variance will not result in increased flood heights, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, create nuisances, cause fraud on or victimization of the public, or conflict with existing local laws or regulations;
  - c. Any application to whom a variance is granted shall be given written notice that the structure will be permitted to be built with the lowest floor elevation below the base flood elevation, and that the cost of flood insurance will commensurate with the increased risk resulting from the reduced lowest floor elevation.
10. Variances may be issued by a community for new construction and substantial improvements and for other development necessary for the conduct of a functionally dependent use provided that (i) the criteria outlined in Article 4, Section d (1)-(9) are met, and (ii) the structure or other development is protected by methods that minimize flood damage during the base flood and create no additional threats to public safety.

## **ARTICLE 5 PROVISIONS FOR FLOOD HAZARD REDUCTION**

### **SECTION A. GENERAL STANDARDS**

In UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF BRAZORIA COUNTY the following provisions are required for all new construction and substantial improvements;

1. No alteration, diversion, encroachment, or enlargement shall be made to any bayou, lake, creek, natural drainage, drainage ditch, or waterway without specific written authorization from the County Floodplain Administrator and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, if applicable.
2. No person may divert or impound the natural flow of surface waters or permit a diversion or impounding by him to continue in a manner that damages the property of another by the overflow of the water diverted or impounded.
3. All new construction or substantial improvements shall be designed (or modified) and adequately anchored to prevent floatation, collapse or lateral movement of structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy;
4. All new construction and substantial improvements shall be constructed by methods and practices that minimize flood damages;

5. All new construction or substantial improvements shall be constructed with materials resistant to flood damage;
6. All new construction or substantial improvements shall be constructed with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and air conditioning equipment and other service facilities that are designed and/or located as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.
7. All new and replacement water systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the system;
8. New and replacement sanitary sewage systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the system and discharge from the system into flood waters; and
9. One-site waste disposal systems shall be located to avoid impairment to them or contamination from them during flooding.
10. No building permit will be issued until a Brazoria County Environmental Health Department septic system permit has been obtained.

## **SECTION B. SPECIFIC STANDARDS**

In all areas of special flood hazards where base flood elevation data has been provided as set forth in (i) Article 3, Section B, (ii) Article 4, Section B (8), or (iii) Article 5, Section C (4), the following provisions are required:

- 1. RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION** – New construction and substantial improvement of any residential structure shall have the lowest floor (including basement), elevated two (2) feet above the base flood elevation. A registered professional engineer, architect or land surveyor shall submit a certification to the Floodplain Administrator that the standard of this subsection as proposed in Article 4, Section c (1) a, is satisfied.
- 2. NON-RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION** – New construction and substantial improvements of any commercial, industrial or other non-residential structure shall either have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated two (2) feet above the base flood level or, together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, designed so that below the base flood level the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy. A registered professional engineer or architect shall develop and/or review structural design, specifications, and plans for construction, and shall certify that the design and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice outlined in this subsection. A record of such certification which includes the specific elevation (in relation to mean sea level) to which such structures are flood-proofed

shall be maintained by the Floodplain Administrator. Commercial, public or other non-residential structures shall also obtain a Fire Code Permit prior to construction and provide to the Floodplain Administrator. Once construction is complete, the Final Fire Code Permit shall be provided to the Floodplain Administrator.

**3. COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES, PUBLIC BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES 5,000 Sq. Ft. or More:** Any person who intends to build a structure of 5,000 sq. feet or more or any commercial structure SHALL submit building plans and specifications to the drainage district in which the structure will be erected. If no drainage district exists for that area, then the person SHALL provide the building plans and specifications to a Texas professional engineer to prepare a site study and then submit the site study to the Brazoria County Engineer's Office for approval. Brazoria County has a Fire Code for commercial and public structures. Any commercial or public structure of this nature must be inspected and permitted under the fire code. No Building Permit shall be issued until a Fire Code Permit has been approved by the Brazoria County Emergency Management Department and provided to the Brazoria County Flood Plain Administrator.

**4. ENCLOSURES** – New construction and substantial improvements, with fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor that are subject to flooding shall be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of flood waters. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect or meet or exceed the following minimum requirements:

- a. A minimum of two (2) openings having a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding shall be provided;
- b. The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above grade;
- c. Openings shall be equipped with screens, louvers, valves or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of flood waters.

**5. MANUFACTURED HOMES**

- a. All manufactured homes, including manufactured housing as defined under Chapter 1201.003 (9), (15), and (17) of the Texas Occupation Code, to be placed within Zone A, shall be installed using methods and practices which minimize flood damage. For the purpose of this requirement, manufactured homes must be elevated and anchored to resist floatation, collapse, or lateral movement. Methods of anchoring MUST be in compliance with State and local anchoring requirements for resisting wind forces and must include, but not limited to, use of over-the-top or frame ties to ground anchors.
- b. All manufactured homes shall be in compliance with Article 5, Section B (1).

- c. Requirement that all manufactured homes to be placed or substantially improved within Zones A, AO, AH, and AE on the community's FIRM be elevated on a permanent foundation such that the lowest floor of the manufactured home is at or above the base flood elevation; and be securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation system in accordance with the provisions of Section B (4) of this Article.
- d. No manufactured home shall be placed in a coastal high hazard area. (velocity zone)
- e. Manufactured homes may be placed in a floodway provided they meet the same standards as conventional housing and other development (e.g. their placement would be prohibited unless it could be demonstrated that there would be no increase in the base flood elevation in the community).
- f. Brazoria County has a Manufactured Home Rental Community Ordinance which must be complied with in addition to these regulations if the land is to be developed into a manufactured home park.

## **6. RECREATIONAL VEHICLES**

- a. Any recreational vehicle remaining at one location in excess of 180 days shall be permitted and elevated above the base flood elevation required. All recreational vehicles shall be tied down to resist floatation.
- b. Any person, who moves a recreational vehicle from a location in order to avoid having to permit, elevate and tie down as required in these regulations, must remove the recreational vehicle for a period in excess of 24 hours. If the vehicle is removed for a period consisting of 24 hours or less, then the permitting requirements will apply and the property owner will be required to comply with the requirements set forth in "a" above. (*Adopted October 24, 2006*).
- c. Any recreational vehicle that is being used as a residence must be permitted, elevated and tied down in the same manner as required for manufactured homes and the above 24 hour rule does not apply. (*Adopted October 24, 2006*).
- d. All recreational vehicles shall be capable of evacuation under its own power or if dependent of external power, the vehicle shall be in running condition.
- e. Egress of recreational vehicles shall not be prevented by stored or fixed items such as stairs, porches, storerooms, etc.
- f. In a coastal high hazard area (velocity zone), all recreational vehicles shall be evacuated at such time as the storm is located within the area of 90° longitude and 22° latitude. The first warning will be issued when the storm is within 85° longitude and 20° latitude.

- g. Recreational vehicles stored on a homeowner's lot where the house already exist are exempt from the 180 day permit regulations subject to other ordinances or restrictions. These vehicles must be unoccupied and not connected to water or sewer facilities. It must have current license, inspection sticker, and be capable of highway use.

**7. FLOODWAYS** - located within areas of special flood hazard established in Article 3, Section B are areas designated as floodways. Since the floodway is an extremely hazardous area due to the velocity of flood waters which carry debris, potential projectiles and erosion potential, the following provisions shall apply:

- a. Encroachments are prohibited, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements and other development unless certification by a professional registered engineer or architect is provided demonstrating that encroachments shall not result in any increase in flood levels during occurrences of the base flood discharge.
- b. If Article 5, Section B (5) (a) above is satisfied, all new construction and substantial improvements shall comply with all applicable flood hazard reduction provisions of Article 5.

**8. FILL MATERIAL** (*Adopted October 24, 2006*)

- a. No permit is required if the fill material to be placed is no more than 20 loads (250 cubic yards) of dirt per acre of land and the land is not within the floodplain. Each acre may not contain more than 20 loads of dirt. Property owner is required to equally disburse and spread the fill material to insure no more than 20 loads of fill being placed on each acre.
- b. If more than 20 loads (250 cubic yards) of fill material is to be placed per acre of land, a permit must be obtained from the Floodplain Administrator and the property owner will be required to provide a hydraulic analysis (drainage plan) certified by a registered professional engineer and approved by the appropriate drainage district.
- c. The property owner must be able to provide to the County information relating to the location from which the dirt came, if it was from a governmental project, and who hauled/delivered the fill material.
- d. Fill material shall be placed no closer than ten (10) feet from the edge of the property line.
- e. If the fill is placed on a piece of property in which the natural flow of water is conveyed on the proposed fill site, then the property owner is required to mitigate for the altered flow. Natural flow could be by sheet flow, swale, ditch, slough or

other natural or man-made means of conveyance of water. Mitigation could include ditches, swales, detention/retention ponds and any other means of conveyance/detention/retention.

- f. All fill material must be spread evenly and as per permit represents within 6 months of the permit issuance date. If the fill material is not spread within this time period, the property owner may be requested to remove the material.

### **SECTION C. STANDARDS FOR SUBDIVISION PROPOSALS**

1. All subdivision proposals including manufactured home parks and subdivisions shall be consistent with Article 1, Sections B, C, and D of this regulation.
2. All proposals for development of subdivisions including manufactured home parks and subdivisions shall meet Development Permit requirements of Article 3, Section C; Article 4, Section C; and the provisions of Article 5 of this regulation.
3. Base flood elevation data shall be generated for subdivision proposals and other proposed development including manufactured home parks and subdivisions, which is greater than 50 lots or 5 acres, whichever is lesser, if not otherwise provided pursuant to Article 3, Section B or Article 4, Section B (8) of this regulation.
4. All subdivision proposals including manufactured home parks and subdivisions shall have adequate drainage provided to reduce exposure to flood hazards.
5. All subdivision proposals including manufactured home parks and subdivisions shall have public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical and water systems located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage.
6. Brazoria County has a subdivision ordinance which must also be followed in addition to these regulations. Copies may be obtained from the Brazoria County Engineer's Office.

### **SECTION D. STANDARDS FOR AREAS OF SHALLOW FLOODING (AO/AH ZONES)**

Located within the areas of special flood hazard established in Article 3, Section B, are areas designated as shallow flooding. These areas have special flood hazards associated with the base flood depths of 1 to 3 feet where a clearly defined channel does not exist and where the path of flooding is unpredictable and where velocity flow may be evident. Such flooding is characterized by ponding or sheet flow; therefore, the following provisions apply;

1. All new construction and substantial improvements of residential structures have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number specified in feet on the community's FIRM (at least two feet if no depth number is specified).

2. All new construction and substantial improvements of non-residential construction shall:
  - a. have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number specified in feet on the community's FIRM (at least two feet if no depth number is specified), or;
  - b. together with the attendant utility and sanitary facilities be designed so that below the base flood level the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and the structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads of effects on buoyancy.
3. A registered professional engineer or architect shall submit a certification to the Floodplain Administrator that the standards of this Section, as proposed in Article 4, Section C (1) a, are satisfied.
4. Shall have adequate drainage paths around structures on slopes, to guide flood waters around and away from proposed structures within Zones AH or AO.
5. No person, company or organization may provide utility services that connect the land with utility services without written certification from the County that the property complies with these regulations.

#### **SECTION E. COASTAL HIGH HAZARD AREAS**

Located within the areas of special flood hazard established in Article 3, Section B, are areas designated as Coastal High Hazard Areas (Zones V1-30, VE and/or V). These areas have special flood hazards associated with high velocity waters from tidal surges and hurricane wave wash; therefore, in addition to meeting all provisions outlined in these regulations, the following provisions must apply:

1. Obtain the elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the bottom of the lowest structural member of the lowest floor (excluding pilings and columns) of all new substantially improved structures, and whether or not such structures contain a basement. The Floodplain Administrator shall maintain a record of all such information.
2. All new construction shall be located landward of the reach of mean high tide.
3. All new construction and substantial improvements shall be elevated on pilings and columns so that:
  - a. the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member of the lowest floor (excluding the pilings or columns) is elevated to or above the base flood level;

- b. the pile or column foundation and structure attached thereto is anchored to resist floatation, collapse and lateral movement due to the effects of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all building components. Wind and water loading values shall each have a one percent chance of being equaled to or exceeded in any given year (100-year mean recurrence interval);
  - c. a registered professional engineer or architect shall develop or review the structural design, specifications and plans for the construction and shall certify that the design methods of construction to be used is in accordance with the accepted standards of practice for meeting the provisions of (3) (a), (b) and (c) of this section.
4. Provide that all new construction and substantial improvements have the space below the lowest floor either free of obstruction or constructed of no more than 300 square feet with non-supporting breakaway walls, open wood lattice-work, or insect screening intended to collapse under wind and water loads without causing collapse, displacement, or other structural damage to the elevated portion of the building or supporting foundation system. For the purpose of this section, a break away wall shall have a design safe loading resistance of not less than 10 and no more than 20 pounds per square foot. Use of breakaway walls which exceed a design safe loading resistance of 20 pounds per square foot (either by design or when so required by local or State codes) may be permitted only if a registered professional engineer or architect certified that the designs proposed meet the following conditions:
- a. breakaway wall collapse shall result from a water load less than that which would occur during the base flood; and
  - b. the elevated portion of the building and supporting foundation system shall not be subject to collapse, displacement, or other structural damage due to the effects of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all building components (structural and nonstructural). Maximum wind and water loading values to be used in this determination shall each have one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (100-year mean recurrence interval).
5. If breakaway walls are utilized, such enclosed space shall be used solely for parking of vehicles, building access, or storage. Such space shall not be used for human habitation.
6. Prohibit the use of fill for structural support of buildings.
7. Prohibits man-made alteration of sand dunes and mangrove stands which would increase potential flood damage.

## **SECTION F. DEPTH CRITERION REGULATIONS**

Floodplain areas below the base flood elevation and above the specified depth criterion, as shown on the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map in selected reaches of the Brazos River, Oyster Creek, and San Bernard River floodplains, are hereby designated as the floodway fringe. These fringe areas may be developed, or otherwise filled, above the base flood elevation, without performing an analysis of impact on flood levels. However, levee systems or other continuous fills in the floodway fringe exceeding 500 feet in any dimension or forming a potential barrier to the movement of waters during the occurrence of the base flood are not permitted unless hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, certified by a registered professional engineer, demonstrated that less than one foot increase in flood levels will occur from the proposed fill when evaluated in combination with all similar fills which could be placed by other property owners similarly situated.

No development, including fill, may be placed within designated floodways, natural stream channels or other floodplain areas not designated as floodway fringe unless a hydrologic or hydraulic analysis, certified by a registered professional engineer, demonstrates that no increase in base flood elevations will occur.

However, it is recognized that buildings may be constructed on approved piers or pilings in areas below the depth criterion if Brazoria County determines that the cross sectional area of the restrictions removed, or proposed to be removed, is equal to or greater than that proposed to be built. If this data, supplied by the owner, is obvious to Brazoria County, a permit may be issued without an engineering study.

Prior to granting a permit for construction of a structure, designed for purposes of human occupancy, on a site where the greatest depth of flooding below the base flood elevation will exceed 1.5 feet, the Floodplain Administrator will review the availability of suitable evacuation routes and emergency services during the occurrence of base flood levels and will deny those permits where health and safety considerations will prevail.

## **SECTION G. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BASE FLOOD ELEVATIONS**

Brazoria County will require an elevation to two (2) feet above the base flood elevation for development in flood hazard area Zones "A" and "AE", as indicated on the National Flood Insurance Program FIRM map for the county.

Brazoria County will require compliance with the Brazoria County Drainage Criteria Manual which is incorporated by reference herein and may be obtained from either the Brazoria County Clerk or the Brazoria County Engineer's Office.

In areas where the base flood elevations change more than one foot, the elevation required will be interpolated by the Floodplain Administrator with the best available information.

**ARTICLE 6  
UTILITIES**

Any structure or other development may not be connected with water, sewer, and electricity or gas utility service if it is not in compliance with these regulations.

**ARTICLE 7  
HAZARDOUS WASTE**

**SECTION A. DEFINITIONS**

1. "Hazardous Waste Management Facilities" included facilities for storage, processing or disposal of any waste identified or listed as hazardous by the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, pursuant to 42 U.S.C.6901, et seq. As amended.
2. On Site Storage Processing or Disposal includes those activities defined in Section 335.42 (a) (44) [156.22.05.102 (a) (44)] Texas Administrative Code.

**SECTION B. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

In order to promote and protect the public interest in providing appropriate protection against the perils of flood losses, no building or development permits will be granted for the construction of any injection well or other type of disposal site for hazardous material or any hazardous waste management facilities in any flood prone areas or floodplain areas having special flood hazards, as delineated on the Official Flood Hazard Map of Brazoria County, with the exception of hazardous waste management facilities for storage, processing or disposal of on-site generated waste. [See Article 5, Section A (6) and A (7)].

**ARTICLE 8  
OTHER REGULATIONS**

In addition to these regulations, any development must also consider the following Plans or Ordinances:

**SEPTIC PERMITS:** Septic permits are required through the Texas Health and Safety Code or Brazoria County Regulations for all properties that are less than ten (10) acres and do not have access to a public sewer system or larger than 10 acres but have more than one structure requiring a septic system. To determine if a person must have a septic permit, contact the Brazoria County Environmental Health Department.

**FIRE CODE:** Brazoria County has adopted a Fire Code for New Construction of Commercial and Public Structures. Information pertaining to its requirements or a copy of the Ordinance may be obtained from the Brazoria County Clerk under Order No. 17, adopted March 11, 2003.

**DRAINAGE PLAN:** Brazoria County has adopted a Drainage Criteria Manual, which must be followed in the development of tract of land or building of any structure. Information pertaining to its requirements or a copy of the plan may be obtained from the Brazoria County Engineers Office.

**MANUFACTURED ORDINANCE:** Brazoria County has adopted a Manufactured Home Ordinance which must be complied with in the development of a manufactured home park. Copies of this ordinance may be obtained from the Brazoria County Clerk under Order No. 32 Regulations Governing Manufactured Home Rental Communities, Adopted January 27, 2004.

**SUBDIVISIONS:** Brazoria County has adopted a Subdivision Ordinance which must be complied with in the development of any subdivisions. Copies of this ordinance may be obtained from either the Brazoria County Clerk or the Brazoria County Engineer's Office.

**LOCAL DRAINAGE DISTRICTS:** If the development is located within a Drainage District, the owner or developer shall consult with the local drainage district to determine if plans, drawings or designs need to be submitted for its approval.

## **ARTICLE 9 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES**

### **SECTION A. REVOCAION OF PERMIT**

The Floodplain Administrator may revoke a permit or approval issued under the provisions of this regulation, in cases where there have been false statement or misrepresentation as to a material fact in the application or plans upon which the permit or approval was based.

### **SECTION B. CONTEMPT OF COMMISSIONERS' COURT**

Any person, firm, corporation or agent who shall violate a provision of the regulation, or fail to comply therewith, or with any of the requirements therefore, or who shall erect, construct, or alter any structure, or has erected, constructed, altered or repaired a building or structure in violation, shall be guilty of Contempt of Commissioners' Court of Brazoria County, Texas. Each person shall be deemed guilty of a separate offense for each and every day or portion thereof during which any violation of any such provisions of this regulation is committed, or continued and upon conviction of any such violation such person shall be punished within the limits as provided by state law.

Commissioners' Court may punish contempts by fine or imprisonment in accord with the provisions of Section 81.023 of the Texas Local Government Code, as amended. Any person securing a permit under these regulations does so on the representation to Commissioners' Court that he will comply with the terms of the permit and with these requirements and other County Regulations. Commissioners' Court has the power to enforce its Orders by civil contempt for violations of such representations. If the Commissioners' Court finds the defendant to be guilty of contempt, it will enter such Orders consistent with general law as it deems appropriate to punish the person guilty of contempt, and will enter such other and further Orders enforceable by

civil and criminal contempt, and consistent with its authority under general laws, as Commissioners' Court deems necessary to enforce and protect its jurisdiction over the matter, and to uphold the integrity of these Regulations. Procedures for contempt proceedings before Commissioners' Court will be consistent with procedures in actions before other courts in this State for enforcement of Court Orders, and for the protection of the jurisdiction of Courts by the process of contempt.

### **SECTION C. VIOLATION AND PENALTIES**

No structure or land shall hereafter be constructed, located, extended, converted, or altered without full compliance with the terms of this ordinance and other applicable regulations. Violation of the provisions of this ordinance by failure to comply with any of its requirements (including violations of conditions and safeguards established in connection with conditions) shall constitute a misdemeanor.

Any person who violates these regulations or fails to comply with any of its requirements shall upon conviction thereof be fined not more than \$500.00 for each violation. Each violation of this regulation and each day of a continuing violation is a separate offense.

Nothing herein contained shall prevent the community from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.

If it appears that a person has violated, is violating or is threatening to violate these regulations in any manner, the County may institute a civil suit in the appropriate court for injunctive relief to restrain the person from continuing the violation or threat of violation including, but not limited to, an order directing the person to remove illegal improvements and restore preexisting conditions. In addition, a person who violates these regulations is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$100.00 for each act of violation and for each day of violation.

Any person who diverts or impounds the natural flow of surface waters or permits a diversion or impounding by him to continue in a manner that damages the property of another by the overflow of the water diverted or impounded may be subject to a civil suit in the appropriate court for injunctive relief to restrain the person from continuing the violation and directing the person to remove illegal improvements and restore the property to preexisting conditions and seek a civil penalty of \$100.00 for each act of violation and for each day of the violation.

The County shall notify a mortgage holder and a flood insurance carrier of any violations of these regulations and identify the owner, developer, and tract of land affected.

County shall file against any parcel of land that is in violation of this ordinance, a notice in the real property records identifying any condition on the property that the County determines violates the rules adopted by this Ordinance.

No Person may provide utility services that connect the land and/or improvements with utility services without written certification from the County that the property complies with rules adopted.