



CITY COMMISSION

DAVID D. CRASE,

Mayor

JAMES R. BEHAN

JOHN DOLL

NANCY J. HARNESS

REYNALDO R. MESA

MATTHEW C. ALLEN
City Manager

MELINDA A. HITZ, CPA
Finance Director

RANDALL D. GRISELL
City Counselor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 15, 2008

“CITY TO ASK FOR APPEALS PROCESS EXTENSION FOR FLOODPLAIN BOUNDARIES”

[For more information or a photo, contact Tanner Lucas, Communications Specialist, City of Garden City. 276-1166.]

GARDEN CITY – The City of Garden City has notified the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of its request to extend the deadline for appealing the proposed expansion of the existing Arkansas River Flood Plain to include Drainage District 1 and Drainage District 2 of the City’s storm water collection system an additional six months.

According to City Manager Matt Allen, “The City is asking for this extension for three very distinct reasons. First, we think including the City’s internal storm water collection system in these new maps is not consistent with the reason FEMA issues flood plain maps and, therefore, will negatively impact the pocket books of more than 1,000 property and business owners in Garden City.” Allen continues, “Secondly, as many of the new properties fall within the ambiguously defined “Zone A’s” on the new maps, we asked for the elevations used to create those maps from the Division of Water Resources and only received that information last week. This makes it difficult to conduct meaningful analysis and research anytime soon. Finally, the anecdotal evidence from major flooding events in our community’s history in no way resembles what is portrayed on the new maps.”

It seems as though the City of Garden City may have some support in this issue. According to Allen, “We are pleased that the offices of Senator Roberts,



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Senator Brownback and Congressman Moran have been supportive in understanding that while it is extremely important for our community to comply with federal regulations, it is in everyone's best interest that we take an appropriate amount of time to study the intent of these changes and the significant impact these changes will have on our residents and our economy."

The request for an extension also includes Finney County and the City of Holcomb.

A meeting to gather public input on this matter will be held on Friday, October 17th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the City Administrative Center, second floor, 301 N. 8th ST. Representatives from the State Division of Water Resources and FEMA will be present to answer questions.

The maps outlining the proposed expansion are currently on the City website, www.garden-city.org, and you may contact the City's Department of Planning and Community Development, 276-1170, with any further questions.