

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**From:** David Elliott

**Date:** July 27, 2015

**Subject:** **Approval of Memorandum of Agreement for FEMA Flood Study**

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**ITEM DESCRIPTION**

Approval of Memorandum of Agreement between DeKalb County, City of Brookhaven, City of Decatur, and City of Dunwoody to cooperate in the completion of a Flood Study that will establish new FEMA Risk Mapping.

**BACKGROUND**

This Flood Study, completed by Dewberry Consultants, LLC, is being completed to update the FEMA Risk Assessment Mapping throughout DeKalb County. This Memorandum of Agreement would commit Dunwoody to funding the generation of Flood Risk Maps throughout its Jurisdictional Boundaries (\$12,800) and participating in FEMA required outreach meetings.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Staff recommends approval of the Memorandum of Agreement.

## Memorandum of Agreement

Under a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) Agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the State of Georgia through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - Environmental Protection Division (EPD) accepted responsibility for the updates to FEMA Flood Study projects for the State of Georgia. In 2009, FEMA initiated a new program called Risk MAP (Mapping, Assessment and Planning), which will, through collaboration with Federal, State, and Local entities, deliver quality flood hazard data that increases public awareness of flood risk and leads to action that reduces risk to life and property. As part of FEMA's Risk MAP program, the State of Georgia through the DNR-EPD continues to manage the maintenance and remapping of Georgia's counties and municipalities under the Georgia Flood M.A.P. Program.

Recently GA DNR-EPD initiated a mapping project within the Upper Chattahoochee River Basin as part of the Georgia Flood M.A.P. Program. As a result of these activities, GA DNR-EPD was made aware of a flood study project being developed by DeKalb County, Georgia. Incorporating these flood studies will ensure that DeKalb County and incorporated communities affected by the project area will have the most accurate depiction of their current flood risk and as such, the time and cost of these communities spent on floodplain management practices will be focused on areas that truly have a higher risk of losses due to flooding and will also help avoid undue hardships in mandated flood insurance for those property owners that have a lower risk of losses due to flooding. GA DNR-EPD, DeKalb County, and FEMA entered into discussions on the best approach to ensure that DeKalb County's updated flood studies would be incorporated into FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) as part of the GA DNR-EPD Upper Chattahoochee River Basin project. As an outcome of these discussions the three parties agreed to the following:

- DeKalb County, City of Brookhaven, City of Decatur, and City of Dunwoody will fund the production of FIRMs, FIRM database, FIS Report, Preliminary Products, and Post-Preliminary processing of the project area being revised by DeKalb County's flood study project.
- DeKalb County, City of Brookhaven, City of Decatur, and City of Dunwoody will deliver all FEMA Flood Study required products to FEMA, participate in FEMA required outreach meetings, and follow FEMA's due process based on GA DNR-EPDs Upper Chattahoochee River Basin Project Schedule.
- GA DNR-EPD will allow DeKalb County, City of Brookhaven, City of Decatur, and City of Dunwoody to use DeKalb County's mapping contractors to produce and deliver the FIRMS, FIRM Database, FIS Report, Preliminary Products, Post-Preliminary Processing deliverables, and manage MIP tasks and deliverables.
- GA DNR-EPD will update their FY12.15 Mapping Activity Statement (MAS) Agreement with FEMA to include this DeKalb County Project.
- Incorporation of the DeKalb County project does not change the grant amount GA DNR-EPD was allocated from FEMA for the FY12.15 Project.
- FEMA will allow for GA DNR-EPD to include this project as part of the Upper

Chattahoochee River Basin Project with an executed Memorandum of Agreement between DeKalb County and GA DNR-EPD agreeing to the terms and conditions of the project and by GA DNR-EPD updating the FY12.15 MAS.

This MOA shall enter into effect upon the signatures of all Parties.

## THE PARTIES

Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Floodplain Management Unit

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Tom Shillock  
State Floodplain Coordinator  
Phone: 404-651-8496  
Email: [Tom.Shillock@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:Tom.Shillock@dnr.state.ga.us)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DeKalb County  
Floodplain Management

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Brian Shoun  
County Floodplain Administrator  
Phone: 404-371-2012  
Email: [bshoun@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:bshoun@dekalbcountyga.gov)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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City of Brookhaven  
Public Works

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Bennett White  
Public Works Director  
Phone: 404-637-0576  
Email: [bennett.white@brookhavenga.gov](mailto:bennett.white@brookhavenga.gov)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City of Decatur  
Engineering

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John Madajewski  
Senior Engineer  
Phone: 404-370-4104  
Email: [John.Madajewski@decaturga.com](mailto:John.Madajewski@decaturga.com)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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City of Dunwoody

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Michael Davis

Mayor

Phone: 678-382-6700

Email: [mike.davis@dunwoodyga.gov](mailto:mike.davis@dunwoodyga.gov)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Georgia Upper Chattahoochee River Basin Schedule\*

<b>Project Activities</b>	<b>Date</b>
Hydrology, Hydraulics & Floodplain Mapping	March 2015
Flood Risk Review & Resilience Meeting	July-August 2015**
Draft Work Map Review Meeting	September 2015***
Preliminary FIRM Distribution	February 2016
90-Day Appeal Period	May-August 2016
Letter of Final Determination	November 2016
6-month Compliance Period	November 2016 - May 2017
Effective Issuance	May 2017

\* Dates are subject to change based on GA DNR discretion. GA DNR will provide DeKalb County with notice of any schedule changes.

\*\* Flood Risk Review and Resilience meetings may be held following Preliminary FIRM distribution.

\*\*\* Draft Work Map Meeting dates may be held at time of planned Flood Risk Review & Resilience Meetings.