**January 10, 2011**

**Advisory from the Alameda County Public Works Agency**

**FEMA Revises Preferred Risk Policy for Property Owners**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has revised its Preferred Risk Policy under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to extend eligibility an additional year.

Eligible property owners of buildings that have been newly mapped into high-risk flood zones due to a **map revision on or after October 1, 2008, and before January 1, 2011**, are eligible to receive a Preferred Risk Policy (PRP) for two policy years effective between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2012. Policies issued as standard-rated policies or converted to standard-rated policies following a map change on or after October 1, 2008, could be converted to the lower-cost PRP for two years beginning on the first renewal effective on or after January 1, 2011. On the third year, they may then be eligible for additional savings through “grandfathering.”

For more information on the revised Preferred Risk Policy, visit the FEMA National Flood Insurance Website at: <http://www.floodsmart.gov/>. Historic and current effective flood insurance rate maps are available through FEMA’s Map Service website: <http://www.msc.fema.gov>. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact the NFIP Help Center at 1-800-427-4661 for assistance.

You are encouraged to contact your insurance agent to determine your eligibility and to find out what the requirements are.

To assist eligible property owners in the San Lorenzo and Castro Valley areas of unincorporated Alameda County, the Public Works Agency has developed a list of properties that were newly designated to be within a Special Flood Hazard Area as delineated on the August 2009 Flood Insurance Rate Map for Alameda County. This list has been developed to document the previous and current flood zone designations and is intended to help validate Preferred Risk Policy extension eligibility. This list along with a cover letter is available for download from the Alameda County Public Works Agency website at: <http://www.acgov.org/pwa/>.

Owners of affected properties located within the city limits of San Leandro and Hayward should contact their respective government offices for assistance.