



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** June 23, 2025

SUBJECT: Consider Ordinance No. 3913, amending Chapter 102 (Floods and Stormwater Management), Article II (Flood Damage Prevention), of the Code of Ordinances, City of North Richland Hills, Texas, to reflect updated requirements by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) related to the Community Rating System (CRS).

PRESENTER: Nathan Frohman, City Engineer

SUMMARY:

City Council is requested to consider proposed changes to the Code of Ordinances, City of North Richland Hills, Texas, Chapter 102 (Floods and Stormwater Management), Article II (Flood Damage Prevention), to reflect updated requirements by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) related to the Community Rating System (CRS).

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

North Richland Hills has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) since 1981. Currently, approximately 950 acres within the City lie in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), commonly referred to as the 1% annual chance floodplain (formerly known as the 100-year floodplain).

As a participating NFIP community, North Richland Hills also takes part in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS), a voluntary incentive program that encourages communities to exceed the minimum floodplain management requirements of the NFIP. By implementing additional flood risk reduction activities, communities can earn CRS credit, which translates into discounted flood insurance premiums for residents. North Richland Hills currently holds a Class 7 rating, which provides property owners in the SFHA with a 15% discount on their flood insurance premiums.

In 2021, FEMA updated CRS requirements, including higher standards for the elevation of new and substantially improved structures and mechanical equipment located in flood hazard areas. These changes are part of the prerequisites for achieving a Class 8 or higher CRS rating.



While the City submits annual CRS recertification documents remotely, a more detailed verification visit is conducted every five years. During this visit, a FEMA representative reviews the City's floodplain management practices and verifies compliance with CRS criteria. North Richland Hills is scheduled for its next verification visit later this year. As one of the mechanisms to maintain our CRS classification, ordinance revisions are required to incorporate the updated elevation standards and other Class 8 prerequisites.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Ordinance 3913.