



## HARNEY COUNTY Planning Department

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September 29, 2020

Dear Harney County Resident,

Harney County has been working collaboratively with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Oregon State, and local communities to better identify flood risk in the County. This effort includes a new flood study on several streams in the County that will ultimately be used to update the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map and provide the County with valuable flood risk information. Better identification of flood risk helps people determine their own priorities and take steps to reduce risk to lives and property. This data also supports communities in recovery efforts when disaster strikes.

A very important part of accurately assessing flood risk is field surveys, to understand how conditions on the ground may impact flooding. FEMA's contractor, STARR II (represented by Harmony Design & Engineering) will be conducting field surveys in Harney County during the next few months. The purpose of these surveys is to obtain channel cross-sections, identify or establish elevation reference marks, and obtain the physical dimensions of hydraulic and flood control structures. The field surveyors will make every effort to stay on public land and rights-of-way; but it may occasionally be necessary for the surveyors to briefly access privately owned property to gather survey information on stream channels, bridges, culverts, and dams. Should this occur in your area, personnel from the survey team will attempt to contact the property owner in advance and seek permission to enter the property. Surveyors will not trespass and will only collect information related to flood risk. They will respect landowners' property and will not interfere with their use of it. They will strictly follow the COVID-19 local and State guidelines and regulations. Survey crews will be in and around the County from late September 2020 through October 2020, and the fieldwork will be performed Monday through Sunday during daylight hours. Upon request, the surveyors will provide identification and this letter of introduction.

The County respectfully requests that the public allow STARR II survey crews proper and safe access to the areas that are included in the attached scope of work. This will allow us to prepare a more accurate assessment of flood risk in our community.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important effort. If you have any question regarding this matter, feel free to contact myself at the County or one of the following individuals:

Donald Syriani, CFM

Project Manager

STARR II

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Sincerely,

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# Survey Needs Harney County Phase II

