



FEMA



Definitions:

Discovery – Community meeting to better understand local flood risk, mitigation efforts, and other topics and spark watershed-wide discussions about increasing resilience to flooding and other natural hazards.

In Progress – A Risk MAP project which is currently ongoing and could include a risk assessment and/or preliminary FIRM.

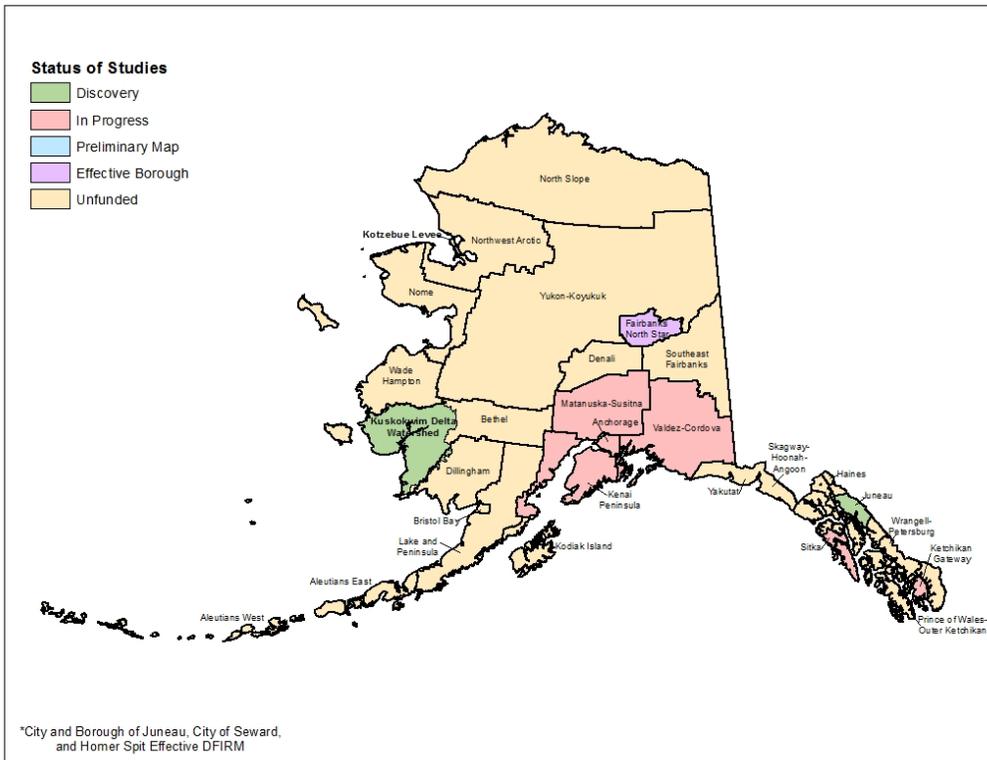
Preliminary FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Map) – preliminary data was provided to the public to allow the community to see the updated flood hazard area. Preliminary data cannot be used to rate flood insurance policies or enforce the Federal mandatory purchase requirement. FEMA will remove preliminary data once effective data are available.

Effective FIRM – is the official map that shows Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) and the risk premium zones applicable to a community. Risk zones indicated on FIRMs provide a basis for establishing flood insurance coverage premium rates offered through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Unfunded – A Risk MAP project hasn't been initiated for the community, but an effective FIRM may still be available.

Risk MAP Study Progress - Alaska

The vision for Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) is to deliver quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action that reduces risk to life and property. Through more precise flood mapping products, risk assessment tools, planning and outreach support, Risk MAP strengthens local ability to make informed decisions about reducing risk. It provides the quality data and tools that enable analysis and awareness of natural hazards. Communities can use Risk MAP data and tools to create or improve mitigation actions and disaster recovery plans, make informed decisions about land use and building codes, and communicate flood and other risks more effectively to citizens.



Current Status of Risk MAP:

Alaska State has had four (4) FIRMs that have gone *Effective* since 2012, one (1) maps currently in the *Preliminary stage*, five (5) studies *In Progress*, and three (3) studies *On Hold* due to non-accredited levees (see page 2 for more information).

RiskMAP

Increasing Resilience Together

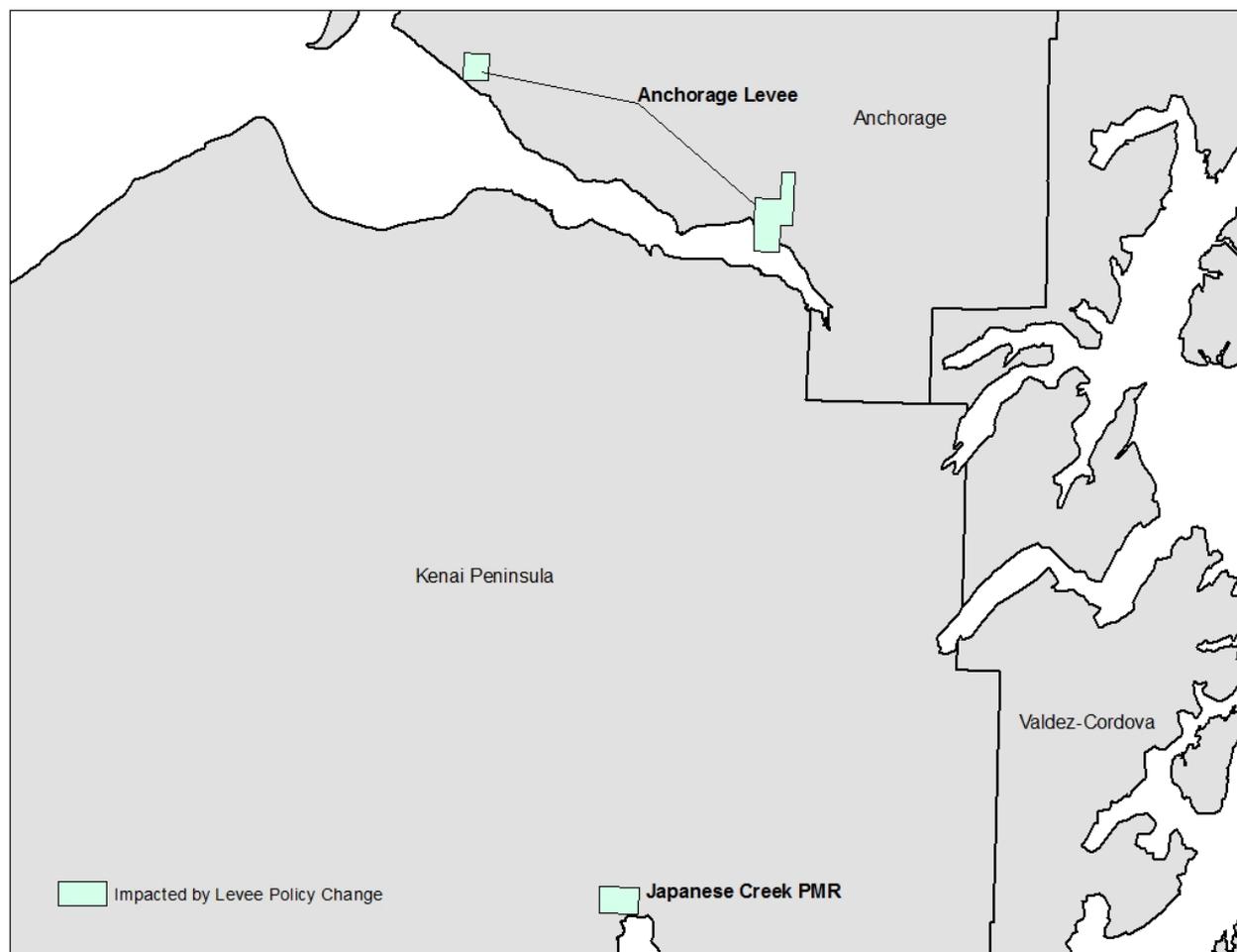
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Why are some studies on hold?

FEMA is actively re-evaluating the method to map flood hazard areas on the landward side of non-accredited levee systems that are shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). In 2013, FEMA published the *Analysis and Mapping Procedures for Non-Accredited Levee Systems* and initiated 25 pilot projects nationally to understand the approach's impacts, benefits, allowing the agency to consider broader implementation.

Under FEMA's prior levee approach, a levee system that did not meet the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements were analyzed and mapped as if the levee had no effect on the landward side of the system during the 1% annual-chance flood. This was known as the "without levee" approach.

In 2011, FEMA discontinued the "without levee" analysis and mapping approach and put current projects impacted by non-accredited levee systems on hold. The below map illustrates the impacts to Alaska State and the boroughs and/or watersheds impacted by non-accredited levee system.



More Information Can be Found:

Background and updates on the non-accredited levee policy: <http://www.fema.gov/final-levee-analysis-and-mapping-approach>
STARR Team Website, which includes current study updates and FEMA Region X newsletter and training updates:

<http://www.starr-team.com/starr/RegionalWorkspaces/RegionX/Pages/default.aspx>

Mapping Process 101: <http://www.fema.gov/blog/2014-02-21/what-goes-flood-map-infographic>

Flood Map Call Center: 1-877-336-2627 or send questions to

asktheexperts@riskmapcads.com

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