

City of Houston Flood Control Program

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The City of Houston recently examined regulatory rules impacting development in flood-prone areas. This work culminated in passage by the City Council in September 2006, with changes to Chapter 19 of the City of Houston Code of Ordinances – Development in Flood-Prone Areas.

The goals of the changes were to:

- Provide for increased protection for human life and health
- Further sound use and development in the regulatory floodplain
- Reward citizens with reductions in flood insurance premiums through participation in the Community Rating System

The process to develop and implement these changes included full engagement of the engineering community and a broad range other stakeholders, including: private residents/general public, development community, environmental community, business community, and impacted or adjacent government entities. Mr. Icken will discuss the development of this process with emphasis on the role engineers play in crafting public policy.