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TEXAS REALTORS

INFORMATION ABOUT SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

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CONCERNING THE PROPERTY AT 27218 Afton Way
Huffman, Texas 77336

A. FLOOD AREAS:

(1) The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates areas that have a high risk of flooding as special flood hazard areas.

(2) A property that is in a special flood hazard area is designated on flood insurance rate maps with a zone beginning in a “V" or “A". Both V-Zone and A-Zone areas indicate a high risk of flooding.

(3) Some properties may also lie in the “floodway” which is the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge a flood under FEMA rules. Communities must regulate development in these floodways.

B. AVAILABILITY OF FLOOD INSURANCE:

(1) Generally, flood insurance is available regardless of whether the property is located in or out of a special flood hazard area. Contact your insurance agent to determine if any limitations or restrictions apply to the property in which you are interested.

(2) FEMA encourages every property owner to purchase flood insurance regardless of whether the property is in a high, moderate, or low risk flood area.

(3) A homeowner may obtain flood insurance coverage (up to certain limits) through the National Flood Insurance Program. Supplemental coverage is available through private insurance carriers.

(4) A mortgage lender making a federally related mortgage will require the borrower to maintain flood insurance if the property is in a special flood hazard area.

C. GROUND FLOOR REQUIREMENTS:

(1) Many homes in special flood hazard areas are built-up or are elevated. In elevated homes the ground floor typically lies below the base flood elevation and the first floor is elevated on piers, columns, posts, or piles. The base flood elevation is the highest level at which a flood is likely to occur as shown on flood insurance rate maps.

(2) Federal, state, county, and city regulations:

(a) restrict the use and construction of any ground floor enclosures in elevated homes that are in special flood hazard areas.

(b) may prohibit or restrict the remodeling, rebuilding, and redevelopment of property and improvements in the floodway.

(3) The first floor of all homes must now be built above the base flood elevation.

(a) Older homes may have been built in compliance with applicable regulations at the time of construction and may have first floors that lie below the base flood elevation, but flood insurance rates for such homes may be significant.

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(b) It is possible that modifications were made to a ground floor enclosure after a home was first built. The modifications may or may not comply with applicable regulations and may or may not affect flood insurance rates.

(c) It is important for a buyer to determine if the first floor of a home is elevated at or above the base flood elevation. It is also important for a buyer to determine if the property lies in a floodway.

(4) Ground floor enclosures that lie below the base flood elevation may be used only for: (i) parking; (ii) storage; and (iii) building access. Plumbing, mechanical, or electrical items in ground floor enclosures that lie below the base flood elevation may be prohibited or restricted and may not be eligible for flood insurance coverage. Additionally:

(a) in A-Zones, the ground floor enclosures below the base flood elevation must have flow-through vents or openings that permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters:

(b) in V-Zones, the ground floor enclosures must have break-away walls, screening, or lattice walls; and

(c) in floodways, the remodeling or reconstruction of any improvements may be prohibited or otherwise restricted.

D. COMPLIANCE:

(1) The above-referenced property may or may not comply with regulations affecting ground floor enclosures below the base flood elevation.

(2) A property owner's eligibility to purchase or maintain flood insurance, as well as the cost of the flood insurance, is dependent on whether the property complies with the regulations affecting ground floor enclosures.

(3) A purchaser or property owner may be required to remove or modify a ground floor enclosure that is not in compliance with city or county building requirements or is not entitled to an exemption from such requirements.

(4) A flood insurance policy maintained by the current property owner does not mean that the property is in compliance with the regulations affecting ground floor enclosures or that the buyer will be able to continue to maintain flood insurance at the same rate.

(5) Insurance carriers calculate the cost of flood insurance using a rate that is based on the elevation of the lowest floor.

(a) If the ground floor lies below the base flood elevation and does not meet federal, state, county, and city requirements, the ground floor will be the lowest floor for the purpose of computing the rate.

(b) If the property is in compliance, the first elevated floor will be the lowest floor and the insurance rate will be significantly less than the rate for a property that is not in compliance.

(c) If the property lies in a V-Zone the flood insurance rate will be impacted if a ground floor enclosure below the base flood elevation exceeds 299 square feet (even if constructed with break-away walls).

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E. ELEVATION CERTIFICATE:

The elevation certificate is an important tool in determining flood insurance rates. It is used to provide elevation information that is necessary to ensure compliance with floodplain management laws. To determine the proper insurance premium rate, insurers rely on an elevation certificate to certify building elevations at an acceptable level above flood map levels. If available in your area, it is recommended that you obtain an elevation certificate for the property as soon as possible to accurately determine future flood insurance rates.

You are encouraged to: (1) inspect the property for all purposes, including compliance with any ground floor enclosure requirement; (2) review the flood insurance policy (costs and coverage) with your insurance agent; and (3) contact the building permitting authority if you have any questions about building requirements or compliance issues.

Receipt acknowledged by:

Signature	Date	Signature	Date
Buyer1		**Buyer2**	

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