

PETER J. VISCLOSKY  
1ST DISTRICT, INDIANA

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1401**

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December 8, 2010

Mr. Andrew Velasquez III  
Administrator  
Region V  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Dear Administrator Velasquez:

I write today on behalf of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, located in Indiana's First Congressional District.

Recently, the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission and its federal partner, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, substantially completed the flood control portions of the Little Calumet River Flood Control and Recreation Project, as authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. As such, the majority of the residents and businesses living within the floodplain of the Little Calumet River are better protected from the devastating effects of rising waters within this river.

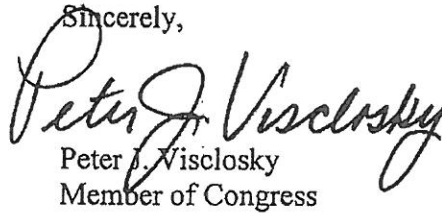
To that end, the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, with support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, respectfully submit to the Federal Emergency Management Agency – Region V an application to request a flood zone change for the areas indicated within from an AE/A designation to an A99 designation. This change in classification will provide financial relief to the approximate 9,500 home and business owners located in the municipalities of Gary, Griffith, Hammond, Highland and Munster, Indiana. During these difficult economic times, the reduction in the amount of insurance paid yearly will benefit residents living in Northwest Indiana.

Please note, the A99 application submitted by the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission is separate from the independent application submitted by the municipalities of Hammond and Highland, Indiana. Currently, it is my understanding the application submitted by Hammond and Highland is under review by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It is my hope that your agency will continue to review these applications separately to ensure that each is approved according to its individual merit and according to the timelines provided to each applicant.

Mr. Andrew Velasquez III  
December 8, 2010  
Page 2

I support the efforts undertaken by the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission to bring flood insurance relief to constituents in the First Congressional District through the A99 application. I know your agency will give this proposal the serious attention it deserves. If you are in need of any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me personally or have the appropriate member of your staff contact Elizabeth Johnson, Director of Projects and Grants, in my Merrillville District Office at 219-795-1844.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter J. Visclosky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Visclosky" clearly legible. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

Peter J. Visclosky  
Member of Congress

PJV:ej



# Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission

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900 Ridge Road Suite H  
Munster, Indiana 46321

(219) 595-0599

WILLIAM BAKER, Chairman  
*Governor's Appointment*

January 20, 2011

ANTHONY BROADNAX, Treasurer  
*Governor's Appointment*

TOM WICHLINSKI, Secretary  
*Governor's Appointment*

RON McAHRON  
*Governor's Appointment*

VACANCY  
*Governor's Appointment*

Mr. Andrew Velasquez III  
Regional Administrator  
FEMA Region 5  
536 Clark Street 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60605

## **Re: Adequate Progress Determination – A-99 Zone Designation**

DAN REPAY  
*Executive Director*

Dear Mr. Velasquez:

DAVID E. WICKLAND  
*Attorney at Law*

Pursuant to 44 CFR 61.12, the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) coordinating for and acting on behalf of the undersigned communities, herewith requests reclassification to Zone A-99 for the Special Flood Hazard Area associated with the Little Calumet River generally located between I-65 and the Indiana-Illinois State Line (See Exhibit 1). The A-99 zone reflects very well the current conditions in the Flood Hazard area at issue. The A-99 documentation requirements rely greatly upon information and demonstrations from the flood risk reduction project's Federal Sponsor. Please find attached Exhibit 2, a letter of support for the designation as well as transmittal for the required documentation from Roy Deda of the Chicago District of the USACE, the Federal Sponsor.

Beyond the information provided by the USACE as enumerated in Mr. Deda's letter, the LCRBDC has developed a plan to notify all identified persons affected by the system/project as addressed in Exhibit 3. The plan closely follows and is in fact, drawn from the procedures currently employed by IDNR as Cooperating Technical Partner in the ongoing Map Modernization remapping projects in Indiana. Also included is a copy of a draft letter that would be sent to the 9000+ parcel owners that are protected by the project.

Exhibit 4 contains A-99 Flood Plain management language currently proposed by the City of Hammond, and approved by IDNR, for incorporation by the City of Hammond in current revision of their Flood Plain Management ordinance. The LCRBDC is working with the other undersigned communities to have this language incorporated into their respective ordinances. The

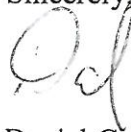


LCRBDC will provide copies of the local ordinances as they are enacted prior to final FEMA approval of the A-99 request. Going forward, the LCRBDC and/or the local communities will seek Letters of Map Revision or Amendment for the areas protected by the flood protection system or appropriate segments thereof as conditions support such requests.

Significant progress has been made on this project; and we respectfully request your expeditious review of this proposal to bring much needed and warranted NFIP relief commensurate with the decreased flood risks associated with the Little Calumet River Flood Protection project to people who suffered from the 2008 flood. Moreover, we will continue to encourage local residents in the Special Flood Hazard Area to obtain and retain flood insurance. We believe the A-99 designation will actually lead to additional properties being insured in the area.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [drepay@littlecalumetriverbasin.org](mailto:drepay@littlecalumetriverbasin.org), by phone at (219) 595-0599, or the letterhead address.

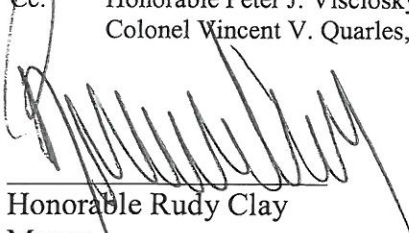
Sincerely,



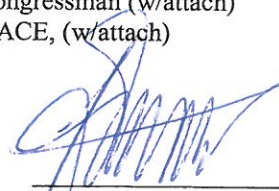
Daniel C. Repay  
Executive Director  
Little Calumet River Basin  
Development Commission

/s/jm  
Attachments


Cc: Honorable Peter J. Visclosky, Congressman (w/attach)  
Colonel Vincent V. Quarles, USACE, (w/attach)



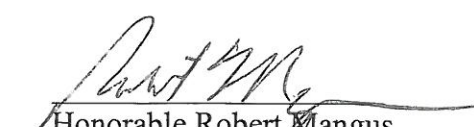
Honorable Rudy Clay  
Mayor,  
City of Gary



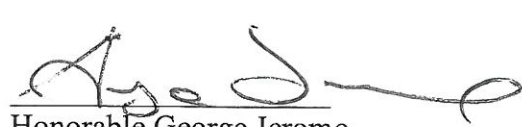
Honorable Thomas McDermott  
Mayor,  
City of Hammond



Honorable Brian Novak  
Town Council President,  
Highland



Honorable Robert Mangus  
Town Council President,  
Munster



Honorable George Jerome  
Town Council President,  
Griffith