



**RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
REVISE THE COASTAL FLOODPLAIN MAPPING MODEL AND CONSIDER SHALLOW FLOODING
AND OTHER SOURCES OF FLOOD RISK AS PART OF THE PROCESS TO UPDATE
FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS**

WHEREAS, the Town of Nags Head has been a member of the National Flood Insurance Program since 1972; AND

WHEREAS, the Town of Nags Head strongly believes that the National Flood Insurance Program, through the use of Flood Insurance Rate Maps and associated regulations, has been one of the primary and most effective ways to minimize flood damage to properties within the Town and communicate flood risk to the general public; AND

WHEREAS, the Town of Nags Head received preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps on June 30, 2016 as part of the North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program's most recent effort to update flood maps in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); AND

WHEREAS, the Town has compared the proposed Special Flood Hazard Areas and associated Base Flood Elevations to previous maps as well as local historical storm records and documented flooding; AND

WHEREAS, a large portion of the Town has been removed from the Special Flood Hazard Area and the remaining non-VE zone Special Flood Hazard Areas have a Base Flood Elevation of 4 feet above mean sea level, which is generally lower than the land surface elevations in much of the Town; AND

WHEREAS, based on this analysis, the Town has determined that the preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps underrepresent the flood risk for a significant portion of the Town, including areas flooded and/or damaged in Hurricanes Isabel, Irene, Matthew as well as Tropical Storm Beryl; AND

WHEREAS, the preliminary maps, if adopted without modification, would allow new construction and/or improvements to existing buildings that would be at risk of flooding from storms of similar intensity and/or duration as the aforementioned events; AND

WHEREAS, buildings constructed outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area are not grandfathered for flood insurance purposes and, if later mapped into a flood zone, may realize significant flood insurance premium increases if not constructed in compliance with new flood damage prevention regulations; AND

WHEREAS, the Town has consulted with North Carolina Emergency Management, the North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program, NC Sea Grant and conducted other research to collect information on how the maps were developed including the models and analyses used to develop Special Flood Hazard Areas and associated Base Flood Elevations; AND

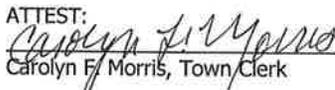
WHEREAS, the Town believes that the coastal models used by FEMA to develop Flood Insurance Rate Maps has inherent flaws which are reflected in the Special Flood Hazard Areas and Base Flood Elevations shown on the preliminary maps; AND

WHEREAS, the modeling process is highly quantitative and dependent on simulations which reduces the ability to make inferences from historical storm and storm gage records; AND

WHEREAS, the key to improving coastal flood maps lies in improving the coastal flood models that are used to calculate the areas subject to flood inundation, Base Flood Elevations, as well as improving estimates of storm return period and consideration of areas of shallow flooding.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nags Head Board of Commissioners calls upon our Federal and State representatives to request that the Federal Emergency Management Agency revise the models used to generate the Flood Insurance Rate Maps and consider all appropriate sources of flooding to better and more accurately reflect the risk from flooding and storm surge, particularly in coastal communities.

This the 1st day of March 2017.

ATTEST:

Carolyn F. Morris, Town Clerk

