

September 13, 2023

City of Veneta
PO Box 458
Veneta, OR 97487

Re: Floodplain Development Permit (City File No. FP-1-23)

To whom it may concern:

On September 13, 2023, the Building and Planning Official approved the Floodplain Development Permit for Map and Tax Lot 17-06-36-00-00602 to place fill to elevate portions of the lot above the base flood elevation (BFE).

The decision of the Building and Planning Official was made following the procedures laid out for Type I Procedures in Veneta Land Development Ordinance No. 493, Section 11.05. A Type I Decision is final on the date it is signed by the Director, with no right to a local appeal. Therefore, this decision is final as of September 15, 2023.

If you have any questions concerning this letter or the decision, you may contact me at 541-935-2191 or at mlaird@ci.veneta.or.us.

Sincerely,



Matt Laird
Community Development Director
City of Veneta

CC: Planning File

Exhibits:

- A: August 8, 2023 - Technical Memorandum "No Rise Analysis"
- B: May 15, 2023 - Existing Conditions Topographic Survey

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

WEST Consultants, Inc.

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To: Matt Laird, Lane Branch, PE
Date: August 8, 2023
From: Ken Puhn, PE, CFM
Reviewed: Hans Hadley, PE, CFM, Vice President
Subject: No-Rise Analysis for Lot 602 in Veneta, Oregon

EXPIRES: 12/31/2024

Introduction

At the request of Matt Laird of the City of Veneta (City), WEST Consultants (WEST) has conducted a "No-Rise" hydraulic analysis for Lot 602 in Veneta, Oregon. Lot 602 is located immediately east of 8th Street, between Jack Kelly Drive to the north, and the railroad line to the south. Based on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel number 41039C1086F (effective on June 2, 1999), Lot 602 is within a FEMA Zone AE Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) for the Long Tom River. No floodway has been designated for the study area. The City would like to place fill to elevate portions of the lot above the FEMA base flood elevation (BFE) to allow for development. The study area and effective floodplain boundaries are shown in **Figure 1** and **Figure 2**. All figures referenced in the text are found in **Appendix A** located at the end of this memorandum. Unless otherwise stated, all elevations referenced herein are based on the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88).

The topography of the Long Tom River floodplain near the project site has changed significantly since the hydraulic modeling in the effective Flood Insurance Study (FIS) was completed. The construction of Highway 126 and the 8th Street overpass, which are not represented in the effective FIS, have changed the terrain in the vicinity of the study area, resulting in hydraulic isolation of Lot 602 from the FEMA 1% annual-chance (100-year) floodplain. Accordingly, the effective floodplain and BFEs near the project site are not representative of current conditions. Other significant inconsistencies are found in the effective FIS. Notably, upstream of where the Long Tom River channel crosses under the Coos Bay Rail Line and Highway 126, the existing elevated railroad grade is shown in the FIS to function as a levee and prevent water from flowing north, away from the river. However, based on inspection of LiDAR and aerial imagery, it appears that a series of large hydraulic openings exist which would convey water north under the railroad embankment and Highway 126, upstream of where the river channel crosses Highway 126.

According to the Veneta Land Development Ordinance No. 493 Section 4.13(8), the following provision applies to development within the FEMA regulatory floodplain:

The cumulative effect of any proposed development, where combined with all other existing and anticipated development, shall not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one foot at any point.

To satisfy the floodplain requirement of the City Land Development Ordinance, a hydraulic study was conducted in accordance with standard engineering practice for a FEMA "No-Rise" Analysis. This memorandum summarizes the analysis methodology and results.

Analysis

Since physical conditions have changed which could affect the hydraulics for the study area, a two-dimensional (2D) hydraulic model for the study area was developed using the Hydraulic Engineering Center – River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) software (version 6.3.1) software. The 2D model domain is shown in Figure 3. Since the effective FIS hydraulic model is only available in hard-copy format, a Duplicate Effective Model was not developed. Instead, an Existing Conditions Model was developed using channel data from the effective FIS model and overbank data from LiDAR topographic date collected between 2008 and 2015 (Watershed Sciences 2015). For the 2D mesh, a variable cell size was used, which ranged from 20 feet within the Long Tom River channel to 50 feet in the overbanks, for a total of 52,940 cells within the model domain. Since the downstream boundary of the model is located in a Zone A floodplain where BFEs have not been established in the FIS, a normal depth condition with a friction slope of 0.0015 (based on local topography) was used. Manning's n values were estimated from field observations, aerial imagery, and engineering judgement. Seven bridge openings and three culverts that convey flow from south to north across the railroad and Highway 126 were included in the model. The size of most of the openings was estimated using LiDAR and aerial imagery. A large overflow channel culvert that conveys flow under Highway 126, is located just west of Lot 602, and was considered important for defining an updated BFE near the project site. Accordingly, this culvert was surveyed by Branch Engineering in 2023 to ensure accuracy of the modeled BFE in this area.

Based on the FIS 1% annual chance (100-year) discharge of 8,310 cfs, the hydraulic model results indicated a BFE of 385.8 feet immediately west of the 8th Street overpass. This BFE is noted to be approximately 3.8 feet lower than the effective FIS BFE at that location (389.6 feet). The updated hydraulic modeling shows that Lot 602 is hydraulically isolated from the newly developed 100-year floodplain. The low point in the local topography that would need to be overtopped to allow water to flow east to Lot 602 is located at the intersection of Highway 126 and 8th Street. Based on review of the available LiDAR data and survey data collected by Branch, the low point is approximately 392.3 feet, which is approximately 2.7 feet above the effective FIS BFE at that location and 6.5 feet above WEST's modeled BFE. Branch also surveyed underneath the 8th Street railroad line overpass, which has a lowest ground elevation of 397.6 feet, which is approximately 8 feet above the effective FIS BFE and 11.8 feet above WEST's modeled BFE. Since no other conveyance structures exist that could pass flow under 8th Street, this indicates that the project site is hydraulically isolated (Figure 4). Some portions of Lot 602 are lower than WEST's modeled BFE (lowest existing site elevation is 383.4 feet); however, floodwaters cannot reach the site due to the 8th Street roadway prism. In the event that seepage occurs through the fill that comprises the 8th Street

roadway prism, allowing floodwaters east of 8th Street, water would pond and not be conveyed through the area to the east of 8th Street (including Lot 602). This is because this area has no downstream outlet due to the naturally occurring high ground to the east and south, as well as the highway roadway embankment to the north. Accordingly, under those conditions the no-rise condition is still met.

Conclusions

A hydraulic analysis was completed for the Long Tom River in the vicinity of Lot 602 and the City of Veneta. Comparison of modeled flood elevations to the terrain near Lot 602 shows that the proposed project site is hydraulically isolated from the Long Tom River floodwaters. Therefore, fill placed on the lot will not cause an increase in base flood water surface elevations during the occurrence of the 1% annual chance (100-year) flood event. Accordingly, any proposed fill within Lot 602 will be in compliance with Veneta Land Development Ordinance No. 493 Section 4.13(8). A FEMA Engineering No-Rise Certificate for the project is provided in **Figure 5**.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone at (503) 485-5490, or by email at kpuhn@westconsultants.com.

References

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Flood Insurance Study for Lane County, Oregon and Incorporated Areas, June 5, 2020.
- Watershed Sciences, Veneta LiDAR data, Acquired Aug 31, 2008-Jul 01, 2009; Sep 05, 2013-Jun 08, 2015. Accessed via DOGAMI online.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hydrologic Engineering Center; HEC-RAS, River Analysis System, Software Version 6.3.1; September 2022

Appendix A Figures

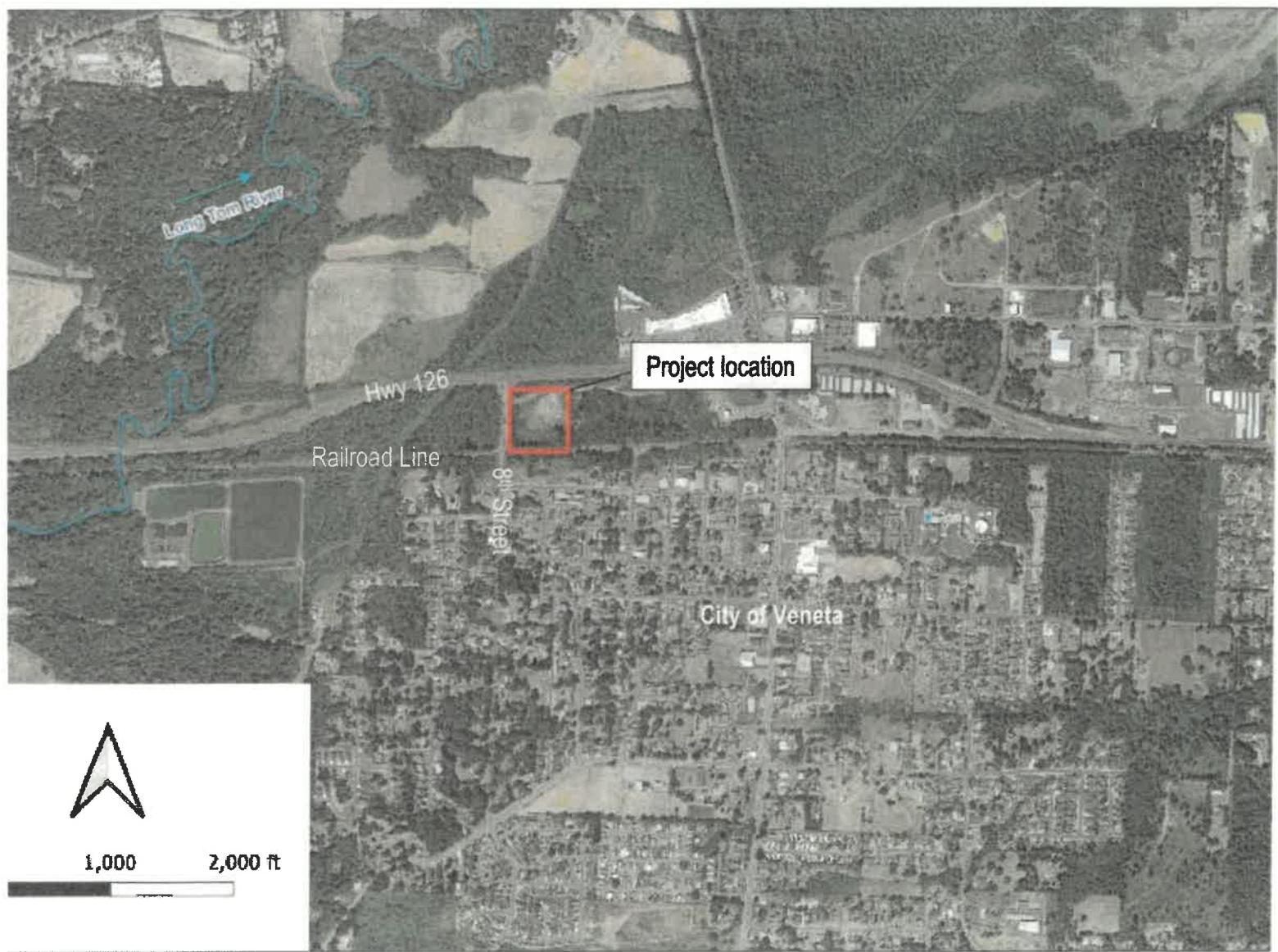


Figure 1 – Project Location Map

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette

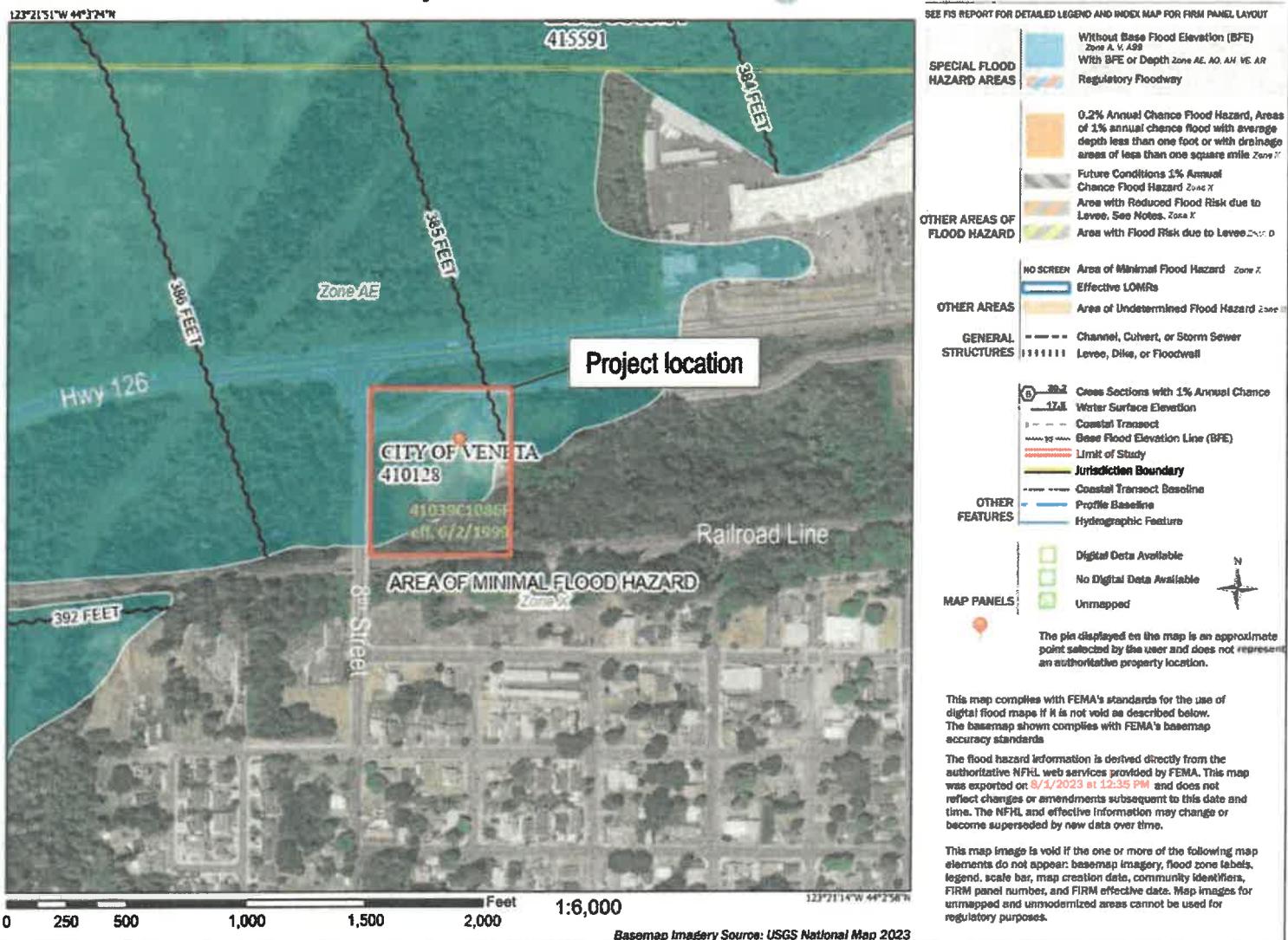


Figure 2 – FEMA FIRMette (Note: FEMA BFEs shown in NGVD29 vertical datum)

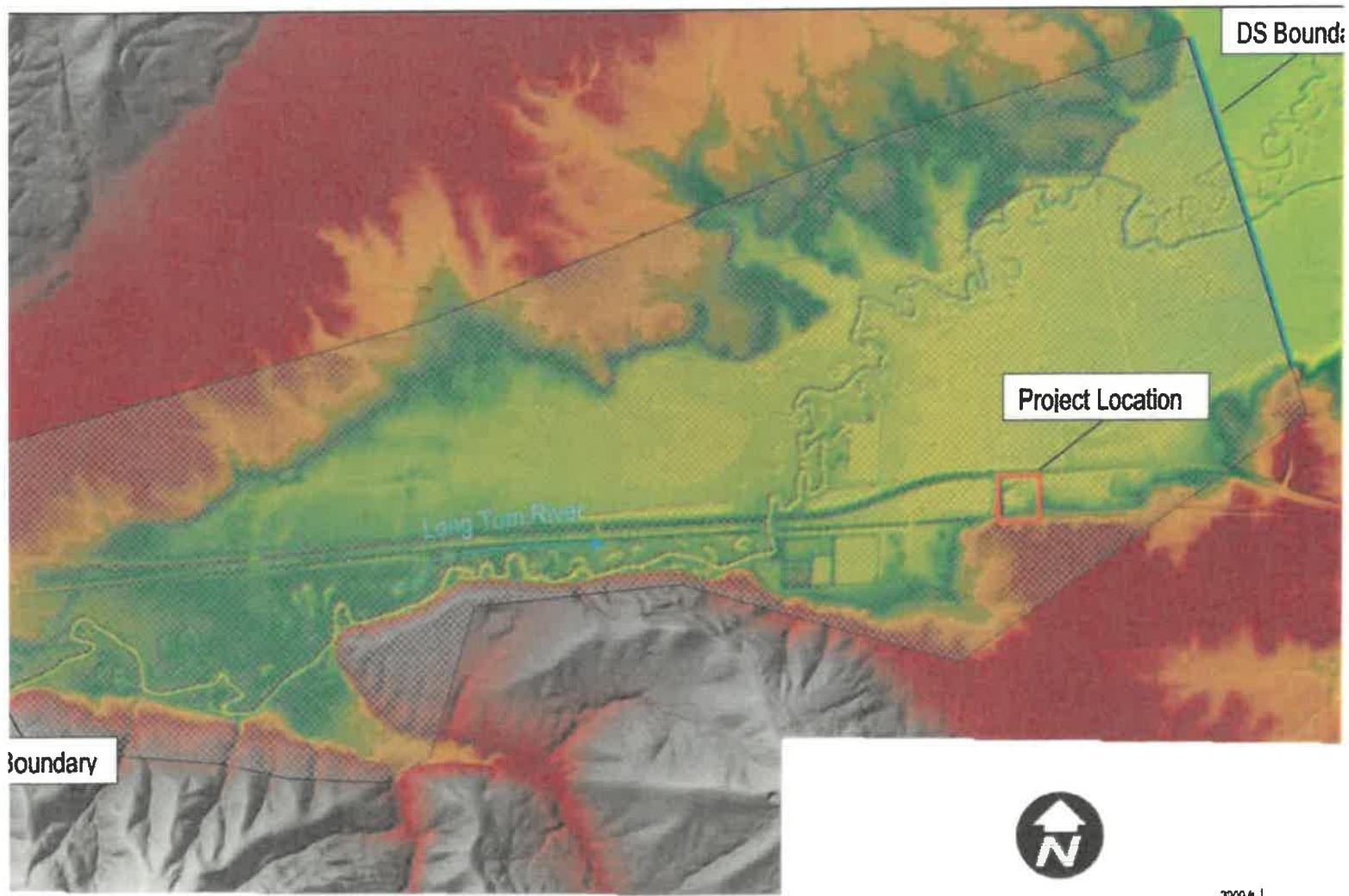


Figure 3 – 2D Model Domain

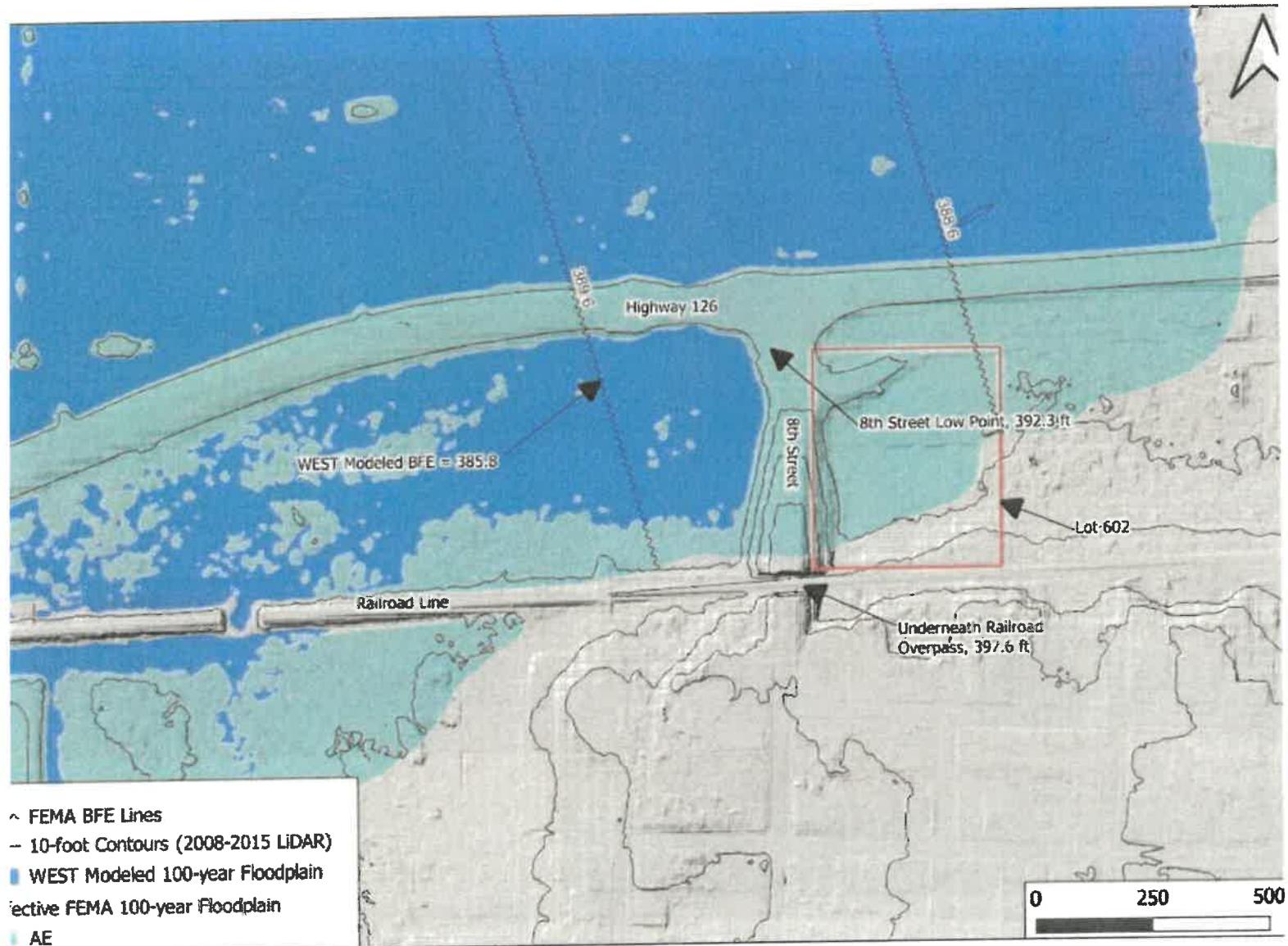


Figure 4. Comparison of Effective FEMA and WEST Modeled BFE Near Lot 602

ENGINEERING NO-RISE CERTIFICATION

City of Veneta

Community Name

Lot 602

Development Name

Lot 602

Lot/Property Designation

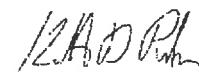
City of Veneta

Property Owner

I hereby certify that I am a duly qualified engineer licensed to practice in the State of Oregon. I further certify that the technical data provided herein supports the fact that fill placed on Lot 602 in Veneta (Lane County), Oregon will not impact the 1% annual chance flood elevations on the Long Tom River at published sections in the FEMA Flood Insurance Study for Lane County and Incorporated Areas dated June 5, 2020 and will not impact the 1% annual chance flood elevations at unpublished cross sections in the vicinity of the proposed project.

8/8/2023

(Date)



(Signature)

Project Engineer

(Title)

WEST Consultants, Inc.

(Company)

2601 25th Street SE, Ste 450

(Address 1)

Salem, OR 97302

(Address 2)



Figure 5 – Engineering No-Rise Certification

