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January 22, 2009

Mr. Ron Mentzer, Director  
Community Development Department  
City of Warrenville  
3S258 Manning Avenue  
Warrenville, Illinois 60555

Re: September 2008 Flood Investigation  
DuPage County FEQ Model Considerations

[www.strand.com](http://www.strand.com)

Dear Mr. Mentzer:

As part of our flood investigation for the City of Warrenville we are in the process of collecting background information from various agencies concerning Fawell Dam, the West Branch of the DuPage River, and the rainfall event of September 13, 2008. One critical piece of information we are pursuing is DuPage County's computer model of the West Branch DuPage River (WBDPR). This model is necessary for us to evaluate what happened to river levels during the September 2008 storm event and is a significant aspect of our scope of work.

We met with DuPage County on December 22, 2009 and requested the County update their model with the rainfall data from September 13 and provide a copy of the model to the City. We were informed that the County would not be able to update the model for several months. The process for updating the model requires verification of rainfall and river gauge data by the USGS who could take as long as six months to complete their review. Unfortunately, this significantly delays our flood investigation for the City.

A key step in our flood investigation is to obtain an updated model from DuPage County and to review that model to establish confidence that the model appropriately represents the characteristics of the river. Based on an acceptable river model we would evaluate how several structures including Fawell Dam, Diehl Road Bridge, I-88 Bridge, and Ferry Road Bridge affect water levels in the river and thus try to identify potential reasons for the September 2008 flooding in Warrenville. Without the updated model from DuPage County we are unable to address many of the questions and concerns the City has with Fawell Dam and the West Branch DuPage River.

We could use the current model to perform general evaluations of how the above cited structures impact water levels in the river under various flow scenarios. However, we are hesitant to do this because the results would be based on hypothetical conditions and would not be representative of what the City actually experienced in September 2008. Any decision made from this evaluation would be speculative.



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On January 9, 2009 we again met with DuPage County at which time the county mentioned they would be willing, upon City of Warrenville request, to perform a study of the portion of the WBDPR watershed including Fawell Dam and north through Warrenville. This study would be significantly more comprehensive than the current flood study that Strand is performing for the City and would include updating the river model and identification of sources of flooding. The study would also identify potential flood control projects and could result in a flood forecast model to be used during future rainfall events to predict potential river levels and timing.

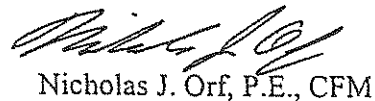
While the watershed study would take longer than the current delay to update the model (anticipate the end of 2009), we feel that this more comprehensive watershed study would be highly beneficial in addressing flooding issues in Warrenville. We recommend the City delay the modeling aspects of Strand's September 2008 flood study and proceed with requesting DuPage County perform a watershed study of the West Branch DuPage River from Fawell Dam north through Warrenville. We would suggest Strand continue to work with the City in developing the scope of the watershed study and to represent the City on an advisory committee to DuPage County for the purpose of monitoring and steering the study.

We will be in attendance at the January 26, 2009, Community Development Committee meeting to present our current findings relative to our flood study and would welcome any discussion and questions concerning the model and watershed study issue.

Sincerely,

STRAND ASSOCIATES, INC.

  
Michael R. Waldron, P.E. (lcw)

  
Nicholas J. Orf, P.E., CFM