

Out of the Floodplain:
Under FEMA's proposed new map, a large swath of the proposed 14-acre Bouldin Meadows subdivision would no longer be in Bouldin Creek's 100-year floodplain.

Into the Floodplain:
But across the creek, a number of existing houses would find themselves in the floodplain when they haven't been until now.

glad-handing he relies upon as a legislative aide, Mains has taken his case to whoever will listen. Council Member Lee Leffingwell recently toured the area, as did members of ZAP and the Environment Board. As the *Chronicle* went to press, the Environmental Board was reviewing Bouldin Meadows' drainage at a Wednesday meeting. The consensus seems to be that a rejection from board members would give ZAP greater standing on which to reject the Bouldin Meadows proposal; at its previous meeting, a vote to deny the plan received a second before it was tabled.

One, Two, Many Floods?

Regardless of the Environmental Board and ZAP's decision, the controversy surrounding changes to the 100-year floodplain could signal trouble as Austin comes to terms with its urban creeks. If the challenge is successful, it means not only a local black eye for FEMA – not a name associated with quality – but for the city's watershed department as well. Flash Flood Alley needs neither as it continues its unabated growth. With another month of public comment left before the maps are scheduled for adoption, however, what looks like another neighborhood skirmish could actually be the opening of the floodgates. ■

For more info on the proposed floodplain maps, visit the city's Web site at www.ci.austin.tx.us/watershed/floodplain_newmap.htm. The maps are available for viewing there as a pdf and in an interactive map viewer. Hard copies are also available at the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department Development Assistance Center, first floor, One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Rd., and elsewhere around town.

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