

**Appendix K: Cost Considerations for Elevating Buildings**

In order to avoid importing fill into the flood plain, the preferred option of providing a flood-safe storage location is either elevating existing structures or building new structures that are elevated without fill.

Costs of elevating buildings compared to building at grade depend upon:

- The existence of solid bearing soil or soil subject to liquefaction.
- The need to provide a ramp or hay elevator to access an elevated building.
- Assuring the space under the building that is flood accessible does not provide refuge for predators or pose a safety hazard.
- The load bearing requirement of the elevated floor, i.e. wood or reinforced concrete.
- The need for construction grade fill that must be imported and paid for or the ability to use free fill that may or may not be construction grade fill.

Factors to consider when choosing to elevate an existing building or build a new building:

- It is generally not considered cost effective to elevate a pole building.
- Stick building construction on a dirt floor can be elevated, but must add a floor.
- The type of floor will depend upon what loads that floor will carry.
- In general, the decision to build a new building compared to elevating an existing building should also consider the advantages of a new building that can be designed and located for existing operations, will be up to code, and will have a longer life span.

Because of the multiple variables that will affect the decision to build a new elevated building or elevating an existing building compared to bringing in fill for a farm pad, additional analysis is needed on this topic.