

Association of State FloodPlain Managers

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Meeting: Conference Call between FEMA-Washington and ASFPM

Subject: Implementation of Map Modernization

Date: June 26, 2003

Participants: FEMA- Michael Howard, Mary Jean Pajak, Mary Anne Lyle
ASFPM – Mark Riebau, Alan Lulloff

I. Schedule of Conference Calls

This conference call, the second in the series, was moved up one week to avoid potential conflicts with the July 4th holiday weekend. The schedule of future calls has been established for July 10, 24, August 7, 21, September 11, 25. All calls will take place at 3 PM CDT/ 4 PM EDT.

II. Status of Procurement of Mapping Contractor(s)

No public announcement of the selected contractor will be made until negotiations have been completed. An update; however, for completion of the procurement process and contractor selection will be provided during the next call on July 10th.

III FY03 Spending Plan

Funding allotments to the Regions were made recently. The Regions have acquisition and cooperative agreement processes to complete before funds can be obligated and studies initiated.

ASFPM noted that FEMA's priorities for FY03 studies were not always consistent with the States priorities. Some States have expressed concern with this. FEMA explained the process that was used for establishing priorities for FY03. The criteria will be provided to ASFPM. ASFPM asked if a process had been established to come to consensus when FEMA and states do not agree on priorities. FEMA suggested that these differences be addressed with FEMA regions and that the regions and states work out a consensus driven process in the development of FY04 Map Mod Implementation Plans that takes into account the current national strategy and the individual state interest.

It was noted that many of the States expressing concerns about the final FY 03 priorities are coastal States. As noted last week, coastal studies are not to be initiated until FY04. FEMA wants to build consensus among the technical parties as to the most acceptable scientific method before embarking on coastal studies. They expect to achieve this before the start of FY04 studies. To ensure States views are being heard FEMA-NATIONAL will encourage Regional Offices to set up meetings or conference calls to seek consensus on FY04 spending plan early in the next fiscal year.

IV Development “State Business Case”

Funding was made available to States under CAP-MAP to develop a “Business Case” for Map Modernization upon FEMA receiving a Letter of Interest from the State. FEMA is currently enhancing earlier guidance related to Business Plan development. FEMA-NATIONAL indicated that their efforts to establish a work group (as a follow-up to the Atlanta meeting) to provide more detail to the business case development would proceed.

ASFPM noted that access to MICS, a web-based tracking tool to provide information on progress of studies, is not currently available. FEMA acknowledged this. The access is currently limited because the information in MICS is being used consolidate information for 2003 spending. Access will be restored as soon as feasible. In the meantime FEMA will work to provide information about MICS.

FEMA is seeking authorization to develop a cooperative agreement with ASFPM to assist in the process. It is unknown whether a Cooperative Agreement (CA) will be approved for FY03 because it was not included in the original spending plan provided to DHS. FEMA plans to include a CA with ASFPM in the FY04 spending plan.

V. Technical Mapping Advisory Committee

No change in status since last week. FEMA is interested in forming a group similar to the Technical Mapping Advisory Council but has not yet made progress to this end. A consensus was reached to pursue this aggressively in October 03.

There is no disagreement that the Technical Mapping Advisory Council (1995-2000) was a positive force for change and improvement. And there is every expectation that a reformation of a similar body to represent FEMA’s stakeholders would continue to be a stimulus for change.

VI. Status of Map Modernization

FEMA asked ASFPM to schedule a meeting of the Mapping Coalition. The purpose of the meeting would be to bring the Coalition up to date on progress in implementation of “Map Modernization,” the priorities for the FY03 Spending Plan and seek input into the FY 04 Spending Plan.

July 17th or 18th was selected as “best available” dates. ASFPM will initiate a meeting between FEMA and the Mapping Coalition.

VII. Miscellaneous Issues

ASFPM complimented FEMA on the *Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners*, updated in April 2003. The guidance is very well done and will be a great assistance to States and Cooperating Technical Partners conducting flood hazard studies.