

Association of State FloodPlain Managers

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Conference Call: FEMA-Washington and ASFPM

Subject: Map Modernization

Date: July 24, 2003

Participants: FEMA – Mary Jean Pajak, Mary Anne Lyle, Dee Woodard, and Doug Bellomo
ASFPM – Alan Lulloff, and Mark Riebau

I. Status of Procurement of National Mapping Contractor

FEMA still intends to make its selection and negotiate a contract with one of the short-listed firms in accordance with the previously discussed schedule.

II. FY03 Spending Plan

FEMA provided the following summary summarizing how priorities were established for FY03:

- Data was collected from: the status of studies and mapping projects currently in progress; census data for every county in the United States, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; insurance data; flood-related disaster data; State plans; FEMA Regional Offices “early implementation” recommendations; and criteria recommended at the Atlanta meeting in February
- Every county in the nation was ranked based on the above information
- Studies were then categorized based on several factors, such as studies recently completed, or soon to be completed, that can be delivered in the new DFIRM specification; studies that are in the “pipeline;” studies that are being done by other federal agencies; and other criteria
- Finally, the list for FY03, compiled based on the above information, constitute only the beginning of the Map Modernization effort that, we anticipate, will continue for the next 5 years.

FEMA also stated they want to work with the Regional offices, States, and others to gain concurrence on the process for setting priorities for FY04.

III Development of “State Business Case”

FEMA-National met with staff from FEMA Regions 3, 6 & 9 this week to develop more detailed guidance on how States could prepare their “Business Case.” The draft documents will be sent out for review and comments by the end of July, with an anticipated delivery of a “final”

guidance by the end of August. Review comments will be sought from the Regional offices, participants of the Atlanta meeting, and ASFPM.

IV Miscellaneous

1. USGS has “proposed” to update their regression equations for the nation to help facilitate Map Modernization. FEMA has not received this “proposal” nor is it included in their plans for Map Mod. No one disagrees this should be done, but, it’s been an issue for over 20 years. The question must be raised – but why suddenly now? And, why the linkage only to FEMA’s Map Modernization initiative when this is an issue that is much more broad? ASFPM will contact USGS and discuss the issue.
2. CAP-MAP funding is available to States to develop a “Business Case” to become a CTP. A question was asked on behalf of States that do not participate as a CTP. Will the ranking of communities in that state be affected? That is, if a State cannot participate as a mapping partner, or elects not to participate, will the communities in those States be placed lower on the priority list and have to wait longer for new maps? There was no clear answer at this time, however Congress is looking for FEMA to find ways to provide an incentive to States to participate as a CTP, but how this is to be accomplished has not been clearly defined.
3. ASFPM asked FEMA to define “technical justification” for a new study. Some States believe each Region may be defining it differently. Guidelines for determining if a study is needed (technically justified) are identified in the Guidelines & Specifications on FEMA’s website. Appendix I (Project Scoping Toolbox) provides information on evaluating study needs. Filling out the forms in this Appendix for a new study is a time-consuming task, but provides valuable documentation needed to establish priorities. The Project Scoping Toolbox use should be consistent from Region to Region, as it is intended to define a process not to provide a solution.