January 31, 2005

Mr. David L. Maurstad
Director, Mitigation Directorate
FEMA
500 C. Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Mr. Maurstad:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Multi Year Hazard Identification Plan (MHIP), which establishes the outline for FEMA’s Map Modernization Program. As one of FEMA’s first state Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP), we are committed to supporting and undertaking the best and most effective flood hazard mapping in history. We have enjoyed a long and beneficial relationship with FEMA Headquarters and Region VI staff with the State of Oklahoma’s CAP and Map Mod programs, and look forward to a continued strong and fruitful partnership.

We support the overall concept of Map Mod, but are concerned about the funding limitations. We believe that the current funding level is inadequate to provide high quality flood maps for all areas that need new and updated information. We recommend that FEMA extend Map Mod funding for an additional five-year cycle.

Oklahoma has many communities with old paper HUD FHBMs & FIRMS that show only minimally floodprone areas, but deserves improved maps. Additionally, Map Mod funding is needed to improve the flood maps for the highly populated areas. Many of these areas have studies that stop short of fully identifying the complete hazard boundary. If the flood studies could be extended with Map Mod funds that would be most cost effective. Oklahoma is working hard to determine exactly where we need to perform new detailed studies and where we need to update out of date hydraulics and hydrology information due to watershed development. Simply converting old paper maps to digital maps would be a waste of precious Map Mod funds.
In summary, it is our opinion we should use available Map Mod funds to produce high quality DFIRMs, in areas with the greatest need. Also, we believe all NFIP communities deserve improved maps. Finally, we encourage FEMA to seek additional out-year funding to truly complete the ultimate goals of Map Modernization.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and if you have any questions, please give me a call at (405) 530-8800.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Mathis, Chief
Planning & Management

cc: Ron Castileman, FEMA, Region VI
Larry Larson, ASFPM
Jim Coffey, OFMA