FOREWORD

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through its all-hazards mission to "Lead America to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from disasters," strongly supports the strategic goals of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). FEMA's Mitigation Division specifically supports the Department's strategic goal for protection, as identified in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Strategic Plan issued in 2004, which includes strengthening nationwide preparedness and mitigation against natural disasters.

FEMA's Mitigation Division manages the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the cornerstone of the nation's strategy for preparing communities for flood disasters. The NFIP was created to reduce flood damages by identifying flood risks, encouraging sound floodplain management practices, and providing a mechanism though which people can insure their investments. FEMA and its partners provide flood hazard data and maps to support flood insurance and floodplain management activities. Flood Map Modernization uses state-of-the-art technology, and engineering and digital mapping standards, to deliver reliable digital flood hazard data and maps in geographic information systems (GIS) format.

Digital flood maps provide many benefits. They provide a uniform structure for digital flood data for the nation, support multi-hazard mapping activities, and provide greater utility for local planning and hazard analyses. They are easier to use and maintain, and less expensive to update, than paper maps.

The Multi-Year Flood Hazard Identification Plan (MHIP) describes FEMA's strategy for updating flood maps used for NFIP purposes. It builds on the recommendations of the Technical Mapping Advisory Council, as well as FEMA's objectives for Flood Map Modernization. The FY04-FY08 MHIP (Version 1.0), released in November 2004, provided, for the first time, a 5-year forecast of flood mapping activities. The MHIP enables mapping partners and flood map users to better plan for map updates, and increases opportunities for sharing common data sets and leveraging resources across all levels of government and industry. This plan, the Draft FY05-FY09 MHIP (Version 1.5) updates FEMA's anticipated schedule and anticipated funding for flood map updates started through FY08.

The MHIP is developed and updated through a collaborative process with local, State, regional, and national participants. Stakeholder input is critical to the success of Flood Map Modernization, and FEMA thanks the nearly three dozen governmental agencies, State and national associations, and private entities that submitted comments on the FY04-FY08 MHIP (Version 1.0). Implementation of this plan relies on the continued support and efforts of flood mapping stakeholders across the country to provide high-quality and timely products. We encourage all stakeholders to continue providing input to the flood map update planning process.

The MHIP is available on FEMA's Flood Hazard Mapping Web site for all mapping stakeholders to support communities and States in protecting people and property from flood devastation. FEMA thanks its partners and stakeholders for their continued hard work as Flood Map Modernization moves forward.

Sincerely,

David I. Maurstad
Acting Director, Mitigation Division
Emergency Preparedness and
Response Directorate