

FOREWORD

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) manages the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the cornerstone of the Nation's strategy for preparing communities for flood disasters. The Flood Hazard Mapping Program is a key component of the NFIP. FEMA and its mapping partners provide flood hazard data and maps that are used to establish premium rates for flood insurance policies and guide floodplain management activities.

FEMA is leading the effort to modernize the Nation's flood hazard data and maps, and the Multi-Year Flood Hazard Identification Plan (MHIP) describes the strategy for this effort. In 2006, the MHIP was revised to reflect a significant change in the approach of the Flood Map Modernization Program. The MHIP (Version 2.0) amends the previous versions of the document.

The NFIP was created to reduce flood damages by identifying flood risks, encouraging sound community floodplain management practices, and providing a mechanism to better indemnify individuals for flood losses through insurance. The Flood Map Modernization Program uses technology and digital mapping standards to deliver reliable digital flood hazard data and maps in Geographic Information Systems format.

The catastrophic flooding events which have occurred in the United States since the inception of the Flood Map Modernization Program reinforce the importance of assessing the validity of flood hazard designations on effective flood maps. Up-to-date digital flood maps provide many benefits including accurate flood hazard information for establishing appropriate actuarial rates, a uniform structure for digital flood data for the Nation, support for multi-hazard mapping activities, and greater utility for local planning and hazard analyses. Digital flood maps are also easier to use and maintain and less expensive to update than the paper maps.

Based on input from Congress, adoption of new standards, and feedback from stakeholders, FEMA is implementing a Mid-Course Adjustment to the strategy for the Flood Map Modernization Program. The adjusted strategy will provide enhanced standards for flood map development and additional gains in product quality. Beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, FEMA will prioritize funding based on a goal of mapping 90 percent of the Nation's highest-risk areas. The MHIP Version 2.0 discusses the impacts of the Mid-Course Adjustment and the objectives for the Flood Map Modernization Program.

FEMA's objective for the Flood Map Modernization Program is to produce new digital products focusing on the areas with the greatest flood risk. As a result of the Mid-Course Adjustment, two new objectives were developed: (1) integrate the 2005 Floodplain Boundary Standard into digital maps; and (2) provide new, updated, or validated engineering analysis.

Appendix A of this MHIP depicts the funding and sequencing of map production and is the beginning of applying the Mid-Course Adjustment. In some cases, this adjustment means a county

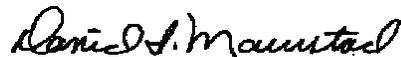
will not receive a flood map update. The selection of these counties was based on the national flood risk assessment, mapping priorities identified by the States, and level of participation in the flood map update process. This reduction in scope enables FEMA to provide enhanced quality flood mapping for those areas at the greatest flood risk.

The MHIP provides FEMA's plan for completion of the Flood Map Modernization Program based on anticipated funding through FY08. Mapping stakeholders have asked questions regarding plans to maintain flood hazard data and maps beyond FY08. FEMA recognizes the importance of efforts needed to review and update flood hazard data and maps after the completion of the modernization initiative, and will address those issues in a planning process separate from the MHIP.

FEMA has developed each version of the MHIP through substantial collaboration with local, State, regional, and national participants. FEMA will continue to work with its stakeholders to ensure the commonality of goals and objectives for the Flood Map Modernization Program. Achieving the goals of the Flood Map Modernization Program requires the support and efforts of flood mapping stakeholders across the country to provide high-quality and timely products.

FEMA appreciates its partners and stakeholders for their continued hard work as the Flood Map Modernization Program moves forward.

Sincerely,



David I. Maurstad
Director
Mitigation Division