

FOREWORD

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), manages the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the cornerstone of the national strategy for preparing communities for flood disasters. The Flood Hazard Mapping Program is a key component of the NFIP. FEMA is leading the effort to modernize flood hazard data and maps for the United States.

The goals of Flood Map Modernization will be achieved with flood mapping efforts initiated based on funding received through Fiscal Year (FY) 2008. Multi-Year Flood Hazard Identification Plan (MHIP) Version 3.0 reflects the FEMA plan to complete this effort.

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. 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 United States, and greater utility for local planning and hazard analyses.

Mapping stakeholders have asked questions regarding plans to maintain flood hazard data and maps beyond FY 2008. FEMA recognizes the importance of efforts needed to review and update flood hazard data and maps as we complete the modernization initiative. Information regarding concepts proposed by FEMA for future flood hazard and risk identification efforts is available in the Draft Strategy document “FEMA Risk MAP Strategy – Integrating Mapping, Assessment, and Mitigation Planning,” available on the FEMA Flood Hazard Mapping Website <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ffmm.shtm>.

FEMA has developed each version of the MHIP through substantial collaboration with local, State, regional, and national participants. FEMA appreciates its partners and stakeholders for their continued hard work to support the success of the Flood Map Modernization Program. FEMA will continue to collaborate with its stakeholders in working to sustain the quality of digital flood hazard data and maps provided in Map Modernization.

Sincerely,



David I. Maurstad
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Mitigation Directorate