



The Technical Mapping Advisory Council (TMAC)

What is it Technical Mapping Advisory Council (TMAC)?

The Technical Mapping Advisory Council (TMAC) is a federal advisory committee, established by FEMA as required by the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12), to review and advise FEMA on matters related to the flood mapping program. The TMAC will review the new national flood mapping activities authorized under BW-12 and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 and prepare recommendations to the FEMA Administrator. The TMAC will also produce a separate report on the impacts of climate sciences and future conditions and how they might be incorporated into the mapping program. The TMAC is comprised of representatives from federal, state, local, and private sector organizations, and will also seek input from subject matter experts.

What will TMAC Address?

TMAC is required to make recommendations to the FEMA Administrator on:

- (1) How to improve, in a cost-effective manner, the (a) accuracy, general quality, ease of use, and distribution and dissemination of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and risk data; and (b) performance metrics and milestones required to effectively and efficiently map flood risk areas in the United States;
- (2) Mapping standards and guidelines for (a) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs); and (b) data accuracy, data quality, data currency, and data eligibility;
- (3) How to maintain, on an ongoing basis, Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and flood risk identification;
- (4) Procedures for delegating mapping activities to State and local mapping partners;
- (5) (a) Methods for improving interagency and intergovernmental coordination on flood mapping and flood risk determination; and (b) a funding strategy to leverage and coordinate budgets and expenditures across Federal agencies;

Per the authorizing legislation, TMAC must additionally develop recommendations on how to ensure that Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) incorporate the best available climate science to assess flood risks and ensure that FEMA uses the best available methodology to consider the impact of the rise in sea level and future development on flood risk.

Per new requirements added upon passage of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014, the TMAC must also develop a review report related to flood mapping in support of the NFIP.

Who Serves on the Council?

The authorizing legislation prescribes specific membership guidelines to ensure that a variety of stakeholder perspectives are reflected in the TMAC's deliberations and recommendations. The legislation identifies both Federal Government departments and agencies that must be represented, as well as requiring the FEMA Administrator appoint members from 16 specific member categories. The designated Federal members include:

- The FEMA Administrator (or the designee thereof);
- The Secretary of the Interior (or the designee thereof);
- The Secretary of Agriculture (or the designee thereof); and
- The Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (or the designee thereof).

The additional 16 members appointed by the FEMA Administrator consist of:

- A member of a recognized professional surveying association or organization;
- A member of a recognized professional mapping association or organization;
- A member of a recognized professional engineering association or organization;
- A member of a recognized professional association or organization representing flood hazard determination firms;
- A representative of the United States Geological Survey;
- A representative of a recognized professional association or organization representing State geographic information;
- A representative of State national flood insurance coordination offices;
- A representative of the Corps of Engineers;
- A member of a recognized regional flood and storm water management organization;
- Two (2) representatives of different State government agencies that have entered into cooperating technical partnerships with the Administrator and have demonstrated the capability to produce flood insurance rate maps;
- Two (2) representatives of different local government agencies that have entered into cooperating technical partnerships with the Administrator and have demonstrated the capability to produce flood insurance maps;
- A member of a recognized floodplain management association or organization;
- A member of a recognized risk management association or organization; and
- A State Mitigation Officer

How are TMAC members appointed?

FEMA is working to establish the Council as a Federal advisory committee governed under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). After soliciting nominations through various professional organizations and a public submission process, published in the [Federal Register](#), the FEMA Administrator conducted a rigorous nominee evaluation process. The Administrator selected the most qualified candidates submitted in each membership category, ensuring that, together, the nominees provided a balance of geographically-diverse professional opinions from a mix of State, local, and private sector organizations. Following a rigorous vetting process, FEMA announced the appointment of members in July 2014. TMAC members serve either one to two year terms, at the discretion of the Administrator, to allow refresh and ensure the expert input required.

How Can I Stay Informed of TMAC Activities or Participate on the Council?

As a Federal advisory committee, all TMAC meetings and discussions are open to the public and members of the public will have an opportunity to submit comments for the TMAC's consideration. Notice of meetings will appear in the Federal Register several weeks prior to the start date. The Federal Register can be viewed at www.federalregister.gov. Pre-registration for meetings is required and all comments must be submitted in writing prior to the deadline; information on both items will appear in the Federal Register notice. *(Note: Meetings may be closed to the public if required and justified.)*

If you are interested in becoming a member of the council and **you fit into one of the categories specified in The Act**, you may submit your resume to FEMA during the next nomination/application period, which will also be announced through the Federal Register.

- a) **If you do not fit into one of the categories specified**, then you cannot be an official member.
- b) TMAC may choose to consult with **Subject Matter Experts** (SMEs) on particular topics if that expertise is not represented on the Council. SMEs may include scientists and technical experts from other Federal, State, and local agencies/communities, as well as the private sector.

For more information visit fema.gov/tmac or, contact: FEMA-TMAC@fema.dhs.gov