



FEMA

August 22, 2016

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am pleased to announce that the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Office of External Affairs (OEA) is initiating an outreach and consultation period from August 22 to October 28, 2016, to seek federally recognized Indian tribal governments' input on an update of the Agency's tribal policy. The *FEMA Tribal Policy* outlines our commitment to enhance the nation-to-nation relationship with federally recognized Indian tribes, and to ensure we work together to build, sustain, and improve Indian Country's capacity to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against all hazards.

Our policy outlines the Agency's framework for nation-to-nation relations that recognizes tribal sovereignty, self-governance, and our trust responsibility consistent with applicable authorities. This updated policy will supersede the current [FEMA Tribal Policy](#), issued in 2013, which expires on December 30, 2016. Our goal is to update the policy to reflect current authorities, address key policy questions, and improve the Agency's nation-to-nation relationship with tribal governments. In addition, this revised policy reflects FEMA's new policy format.

This consultation period will facilitate tribal leaders' or their designee's feedback during the policy update process. We will engage officials through face-to-face meetings, national and regional association conferences, conference calls, and webinars to seek input on questions on the *FEMA Tribal Policy*. Tribal officials' suggestions and comments will inform further development and refinement of FEMA's Tribal Policy.

Ms. Margeau Valteau, a Tribal Liaison within our Office of External Affairs, will serve as the Agency's Tribal Consultation Coordinator for this effort. You can also submit comments by e-mail to [tribalconsultation@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:tribalconsultation@fema.dhs.gov), or by mail to ATTN: Margeau Valteau, Office of External Affairs—Tribal Branch, DHS/FEMA, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472-3605.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a copy of the revised *FEMA Tribal Policy* document with a document that highlights the key concepts or changes in the revised policy. You can also find a copy of the current policy on FEMA's website at [www.fema.gov/tribal-consultation](http://www.fema.gov/tribal-consultation). Your comments and recommendations are key to ensuring that the document meets you and your tribe's needs. Please feel free to contact your FEMA Regional Tribal Liaison (<http://www.fema.gov/tribal-contacts>) with questions or comments. We look forward to receiving your valuable input regarding this important document.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Craig Fugate".

W. Craig Fugate  
FEMA Administrator

Enclosures: Revised FEMA Tribal Policy  
Key Concept Document