



FEMA

February 6, 2019

Dear Oregon Community Official:

Thank you for your continued participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and your patience as we continue to work through our approach to implement the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion (BiOp) and Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives (RPA) that were issued on the implementation of the NFIP in the State of Oregon on April 16, 2016. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that FEMA will revise its approach to implementation and adjust its timelines based on the authority granted in Section 1246 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA), Pub. L. No. 115-254 which requires FEMA to delay implementation of the deadlines in the RPA by up to three years.

FEMA has been diligently working to determine the best way to address all of the RPA requirements within our agency's authorities; however, the established incremental timelines set forth in the RPA have necessitated a focus on the two-pronged approach (interim and permanent). Our first efforts have entailed working with our NFIP stakeholders over the past two years to learn what processes already exist at the state and local levels that could facilitate how the interim steps of the RPA might best be implemented.

Throughout this interactive process, we have been informed by feedback received from the state, communities and various other partners, on FEMA's proposed strategy to meet the interim RPA requirements. The most consistent message FEMA heard is a preference to adopt a single holistic plan rather than a series of steps that lead to overall compliance. Several commenters stated that the level of effort to implement the draft interim solutions was not commensurate with a temporary solution. FEMA understands that making changes to flood damage prevention ordinances multiple times over several years is less than ideal.

Consequently, FEMA plans to address the desire of our stakeholders for taking a more efficient approach by delaying the April 2016 NMFS BiOp implementation timeline for the full three year extension, or until October 5, 2021. This will allow FEMA to provide communities with greater certainty while maintaining as much flexibility as practicable for a more holistic response encompassing all of the RPA requirements that FEMA has the authority to implement without developing regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Letvin".

Eric Letvin, PE, Esq., CFM

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Mitigation Directorate
Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration