

APPENDIX E

ACRONYMS AND TERMS

MHIP ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
BFE	Base Flood Elevation
CTP	Cooperating Technical Partner
DFIRM	Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIS	Flood Insurance Study
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FY	Fiscal Year
GAO	Government Accountability Office
GIS	Geographic Information System
IDIQ	Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (Contract)
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
KPP	Key Performance Parameter
LFD	Letter of Final Determination
LOMA	Letter of Map Amendment
LOMC	Letter of Map Change
MHIP	Multi-Year Flood Hazard Identification Plan
MIP	Mapping Information Platform
MNA	Mapping Needs Assessment
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MNUSS	Mapping Needs Update Support System
MSC	Mapping Service Center
NDEP	National Digital Elevation Program
NDOP	National Digital Orthophoto Program
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NSDI	National Spatial Data Infrastructure
NSGIC	National States Geographic Information Council
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
SFHA	Special Flood Hazard Area
TIP	Transportation Improvement Plan
USGS	United States Geological Survey

MHIP TERMS

TERM	DEFINITION
1-Percent-Annual-Chance Flood	The flood that has a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Synonymous with 100-Year Flood and Base Flood.
Appeal	The formal objection to proposed or proposed modified Base Flood Elevations (BFEs), submitted by a community official or an owner or lessee of real property within the community during the statutory 90-day appeal period. An appeal must be based on data that show the proposed or proposed modified BFEs are scientifically or technically incorrect.
Approximate Study	A flood hazard study that results in the delineation of floodplain boundaries for the 1-percent-annual-chance flood, but does not include the determination of BFEs or flood depths.
Base Flood	See 1-Percent-Annual-Chance Flood.
Base Flood Elevation (BFE)	The elevation of a flood having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.
Base Map	The map of the community that depicts cultural features (for example, roads, railroad, bridges, dams, culverts, drainage features, and corporate limits).
Case	A specific unit of work.
Catalog	A listing of data holdings.
Coastal Flooding	Flooding that occurs along the Great Lakes, the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and the Gulf of Mexico.
Coastal High Hazard Area	An area of special flood hazard extending from offshore to the inland limit of a primary frontal dune along an open coast and any other area subject to high-velocity wave actions from storms or seismic sources.
Community	Any State or area or political subdivision thereof, or any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or Alaska Native village or authorized native organization, that has the authority to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations for the areas within its jurisdiction.
Community Identification Number (CID)	A six-digit code used by FEMA to identify each community that is potentially subject to flood hazards.
Community Information System (CIS)	An Oracle database system used by FEMA to track and report on all communities identified by FEMA as potentially flood prone, especially with regard to mapping actions, including Letters of Map Change, taken by FEMA to identify flood hazards in each community.
Community Rating System (CRS)	A FEMA initiative, established under the NFIP, to recognize and reward communities that have implemented floodplain management measures beyond the minimum required by NFIP regulations. Under the CRS, those communities that choose to participate voluntarily may reduce the flood insurance premium rates for property owners in the community by taking these additional actions.
Compliance Period	The period that begins with the issuance of a Letter of Final Determination and ends when a new or revised FIRM becomes effective. During the compliance period, a community must enact and adopt new or revised floodplain management ordinances required for participation in the NFIP.

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Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Program	An innovative FEMA program to create partnerships between FEMA and participating NFIP communities, regional agencies, and State agencies that have the interest and capability to become more active participants in the FEMA Flood Hazard Mapping Program.
Countywide Format	A format used by FEMA to show flooding information for the entire geographic area of a county, including the incorporated communities in the county, on one map and in one report.
Cycle Time	The calendar time from approval of a need to the updating of the appropriate multi-hazard layer.
Data Set or Data File	A named collection of logically related data records arranged in a prescribed manner. The physical set of data of one data type being referred to or being used in the context of a data processing operation.
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)	A Federal agency, of which FEMA is a part, that is charged with ensuring the safety of the United States and its population.
Detailed Study	A flood hazard study that, at a minimum, results in the delineation of floodplain boundaries for the 1-percent-annual-chance flood and the determination of BFEs or flood depths.
Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM)	A FIRM that has been prepared as a digital product, which may involve converting an existing manually produced FIRM to digital format, or creating a product from new digital data sources using a GIS environment. The DFIRM product allows for the creation of interactive, multi-hazard digital maps. Linkages are built into an associated database to allow users options to access the engineering backup material used to develop the DFIRM, such as hydrologic and hydraulic models, flood profiles, data tables, Digital Elevation Models, and structure-specific data, such as digital elevation certificates and digital photographs of bridges and culverts.
Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Spatial Database	A database designed to facilitate collecting, storing, processing, and accessing data developed by FEMA, enabling mapping partners to share the data necessary for the DFIRM production and conversion process. Where possible, all mapping and engineering data elements are linked to physical geographic features and georeferenced. The use of a GIS as a component of the DFIRM spatial database provides the ability to georeference and overlay the mapping and engineering data, allowing the database to support a wide variety of existing and forthcoming FEMA engineering and mapping products.
e-LOMA	Computer software application for processing map amendments and revisions.
Effective Date	The date on which the NFIP map for a community becomes effective and all sanctions of the NFIP apply.
Effective Map	The NFIP map issued by FEMA that is in effect as of the date shown in the title block of the map as "Effective Date," "Revised," or "Map Revised."
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	The component of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that oversees the administration of the NFIP.

TERM	DEFINITION
Federal Register	The document, published daily by the Federal Government, that presents regulation changes and legal notices issued by Federal agencies. FEMA publications in the Federal Register include Proposed, Interim, and Final Rules for BFE determinations; Compendium of Flood Map Changes published twice each year; and Final Rules concerning community eligibility for the sale of flood insurance.
Fiscal Year	The 12-month period that begins on October 1 and ends on September 30.
Flood	A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from (1) the overflow of inland or tidal waters or (2) the unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.
Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)	The insurance and floodplain management map produced by FEMA that identifies, based on detailed or approximate analyses, the areas subject to flooding during a 1-percent-annual-chance flood event in a community. Flood insurance risk zones, which are used to compute actuarial flood insurance rates, also are shown. In areas studied by detailed analyses, the FIRM shows BFEs to reflect the elevations of the 1-percent-annual-chance flood. For many communities, when detailed analyses are performed, the FIRM also may show areas inundated by 0.2-percent-annual-chance flood and regulatory floodway areas.
Flood Insurance Risk Zones	The zones, also referred to as “risk premium rate zones” and “flood insurance rate zones,” shown on a FIRM or FHBM that are used to determine flood insurance premium rates for properties in the community covered by the FIRM or FHBM. The flood insurance risk zones include SFHA, (Zones A, A1-30, AE, A0, A99, AH, AR, AR/A, AR/A1-30, AR/AE, AR/A99, V, V1-30, VE, V0) and areas outside the SFHA (Zones B, X, D, M, N, P, E).
Flood Insurance Study (FIS)	The initial study of flood hazards performed for a community that does not have an effective FIRM or Flood Boundary and Floodway Map (FBFM). An FIS also may be referred to as a “Type 15 FIS” or a “Type 15 study.” FEMA study contractors have traditionally performed FISs. However, communities, regional agencies, and States that are participating in the CTP initiative also may perform these types of flood map projects.
Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Report	A document, prepared and issued by FEMA, that documents the results of the detailed flood hazard assessment performed for a community. The primary components of the FIS report are text, data tables, photographs, and flood profiles.
Flood Map Modernization	Multi-Hazard Flood Map Modernization program, FEMA’s plan to update and digitize the Nation’s inventory of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).
Flood Map Project	Any activity undertaken by FEMA or a flood hazard mapping partner to create a new flood map or update an existing flood map, including detailed studies, approximate studies, and redelineations of floodplain boundaries based on updated topographic information.
Floodplain	A land area that is susceptible to being inundated by water from any source.
Floodplain Management	The operation of a program of corrective and preventative measures for reducing flood damage, including, but not limited to, emergency preparedness plans, flood-control works, and floodplain management regulations.
Floodplain Management Regulations	The zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, building codes, health regulations, special-purpose ordinances, and other applications of enforcement used by a community to manage development in its floodplain areas.

Appendix E - Acronyms and Terms

TERM	DEFINITION
Flood-prone Area	See floodplain.
Flood-prone Community	Any community that is subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance (base or 100-year) flood.
Flood Profile	A graph showing the relationship of water-surface elevation to location, with the latter generally expressed as distance above the mouth for a stream of water flowing in an open channel.
Floodway	See regulatory floodway.
Framework	A collection of technology from which items can be selected for a particular application. The elements in the collection are grouped because they are known to work well together to solve a particular problem set.
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	A system of computer hardware, software, and procedures designed to support the capture, management, manipulation, analysis, modeling, and display of spatially referenced data for solving complex planning and management problems.
GEO-RAS	An ArcView GIS extension that provides the user with a set of procedures, tools, and utilities for the preparation of GIS data for importation into HEC-RAS and generation of GIS data from HEC-RAS output.
Geospatial One-stop	Initiative to reduce duplication among various GIS efforts throughout the U.S. Government.
Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners	FEMA's technical requirements, product specifications for Flood Hazard Maps and related NFIP products, and associated coordination and documentation activities. These Guidelines, organized into three volumes and 13 appendices, combine FEMA technical, programmatic, and administrative procedure publications, guidance documents, and memorandums regarding Flood Hazard Mapping.
H&H	Hydrology and Hydraulics (engineering analysis of water quantity and flow)
Hazard	An event or physical condition that has the potential to cause fatalities, injuries, property damage, infrastructure damage, agricultural loss, damage to the environment, interruption of business, and other types of loss or harm.
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	The program, authorized under Section 404 of the Stafford Act, under which FEMA provides grants to state and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a presidential disaster declaration. The purpose of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable implementation of mitigation measures during the immediate recovery from a presidentially declared disaster.
Hazards.fema.gov	The Web site for FEMA's Mapping Information Platform.
HTML	Hypertext Markup Language, a set of codes or "markups" that are inserted into plain text to create a Web page.
Hydraulic Analysis	An engineering analysis of a flooding source carried out to provide estimates of the elevations of floods of selected recurrence intervals.
Hydraulic Methodology	Analytical methodology used for assessing the movement and behavior of floodwaters and determining flood elevations and regulatory floodway data.
Hydraulics	The study of the dynamics of movement of a given amount of water in a watershed.
Hydrologic Analysis	An engineering analysis of a flooding source carried out to establish peak flood discharges and their frequencies of occurrence.
Hydrology	The science encompassing the behavior of water as it occurs in the atmosphere, on the surface of the ground, and underground.

TERM	DEFINITION
Indefinite-Delivery, Indefinite-Quantity (IDIQ)	A type of contract by which a service is provided an unspecified number of times, or a contractor who operates under such a contract.
Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	A statistical measurement of one of the Flood Map Modernization program's goals.
Key Performance Parameter (KPP)	The major measurement of program goal achievement; specifically, increasing safety for 85 percent of the Nation's population by the end of FY2010.
Layer	An "overlay" of data, each of which normally deals with one thematic topic. Each overlay is registered to one another by the common coordinate system of the database. In a GIS, a layer or a theme represents a specific kind of data.
Legacy	An existing system that contains relevant and historical data.
Letter of Final Determination	A letter sent by FEMA upon conclusion of a study.
Levee	A man-made structure, usually an earthen embankment, designed and constructed in accordance with sound engineering practices to contain, control, or divert the flow of water so as to provide protection from temporary flooding.
Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA)	An official determination by FEMA that a property has been inadvertently included in an SFHA as shown on an effective FHBM or FIRM and is not subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood. Generally, the property is located on natural high ground at or above the BFE or on fill placed prior to the effective date of the first NFIP map designating the property as within an SFHA. Limitations of map scale and development of topographic data more accurately reflecting the existing ground elevations at the time the maps were prepared are the two most common bases for LOMA requests.
Letter of Map Change (LOMC)	A collective term used to describe official amendments and revisions to National Flood Insurance maps that are accomplished by a cost-effective administrative procedure and disseminated by letter.
Letter of Map Revision (LOMR)	A letter issued by FEMA to revise the FIRM, FBFM, and/or FIS report for a community to reflect a change in BFEs, floodplain and floodway boundary delineations, and coastal high hazard areas.
Letter of Map Revision Based on Fill (LOMR-F)	A Letter of Map Change issued by FEMA when FEMA determines that a legally defined parcel of land or structure has been elevated above the BFE based on the placement of earthen fill after the date of the first NFIP map.
Map Amendment	A change to an effective NFIP map that results in the exclusion from the SFHA of an individual structure or legally defined parcel of land that has been inadvertently included in the SFHA (that is, no alterations of topography have occurred since the date of the first NFIP map that showed the structure or parcel to be within the SFHA).
Map Revision	A change to an effective NFIP map that is accomplished by a LOMR or a physical map revision.
Mapping Needs Update Support System (MNUSS)	A computerized database system used by FEMA and its flood hazard mapping partners to compile information and manage needs assessment using the Mapping Needs Assessment Process.
Mapping Needs Assessment Process	The process by which FEMA identifies mapping needs nationwide by contacting states, regional agencies, and mapped participating communities for information; verifies the validity of the identified needs; and compiles information on those needs into a computerized database.

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TERM	DEFINITION
Metadata	Data about data. Metadata describes the data; for example, metadata about an image might describe the location where the image was taken, its resolution, etc.
MHIP@floodmaps.net	The e-mail address to which individuals, agencies, and organizations can send their comments about the MHIP.
Multi-Year Flood Hazard Identification Plan (MHIP)	A document that establishes the nationwide sequence for developing reliable, digital GIS flood hazard data with 5 years of funding.
Mapping Information Platform (MIP)	The name for the MOD team's information technology. This technology encompasses a program management workflow-based system, which has federation capabilities, community outreach capability, and a training system, all behind a common interface. This technology allows for personalization of content.
Mitigation	A sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from flood hazards and their effects. Mitigation distinguishes actions that have a long-term impact from those more closely associated with preparedness for, immediate response to, and short-term recovery from specific events.
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	The Federal program under which flood-prone areas are identified and flood insurance is made available to the owners of the property in participating communities.
National Flood Layer	A virtual national geo-database containing flood information that appears to users as a seamless database, although the data itself may be held centrally in MIP or may be held locally at various CTPs. Data is accessed via MIP.
Open Standards	Refers to standards that were developed in an environment allowing for public comment and pertains to methods and formats that can be met by a number of vendors or organizations. The word "proprietary" is an antonym to "open."
Participating Community	Any community that voluntarily elects to participate in the NFIP by adopting and enforcing floodplain management regulations that are consistent with the standards of the NFIP.
Physical Map Revision (PMR)	A revision made by FEMA to a FIRM, FBFM, or FIS report based on community-supplied data. FEMA issues PMRs when (1) changes resulting from the requested revision are extensive, affecting significant portions of a FIRM panel or multiple FIRM panels; (2) revision will add significant SFHAs to the effective FIRM; or (3) revision will result in an increase in the BFEs and/or regulatory floodway.
Protest	An objection to any information, other than BFEs, shown on an NFIP map that is submitted by community officials or interested citizens through the community officials during the 90-day appeal period.
Regional Offices	The FEMA offices located in Boston, Massachusetts; New York, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; Denton, Texas; Kansas City, Missouri; Denver, Colorado; San Francisco, California; and Bothell, Washington.
Regulatory Floodway	A floodplain management tool that is the regulatory area defined as the channel of a stream, plus any adjacent floodplain areas, that must be kept free of encroachment so that the base flood discharge can be conveyed without increasing the BFEs more than a specified amount. The regulatory floodway is not an insurance rating factor.
Risk Class	One of five categories of FIRMs, depending on flood risk.

TERM	DEFINITION
Scoping	The process of determining the activities that a study must include in order to satisfy a funded need.
Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)	The area delineated on a NFIP map as being subject to inundation by the base flood. SFHAs are determined using statistical analyses of records of river flow, storm tides, and rainfall; information obtained through consultation with a community; floodplain topographic surveys; and hydrologic and hydraulic analyses.
Standards	Standards are methods, procedures, and formats defined to which processes and data must adhere to be acceptable. The standards used on this program are "open standards," meaning that they are not proprietary to any one company or group of companies. In general, our standards will have been developed via the Open GIS Consortium. In many cases, standards are not yet developed, particularly for intermediate engineering data, such as inputs to models. In this case, we will implement WISE standards as a starting point.
State	Any U.S. state, the District of Columbia, the territories and possessions of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.
Study Cycle	The flood study processing steps including needs assessment, project scoping, data development, processing, distribution, and maintenance.
Watershed	An area of land that drains into a single outlet and is separated from other drainage basins by a divide.
Web Services	A technology that allows a server to provide services over the Internet. Web services are self-contained, modular applications that can be described, published, located, and invoked over a network. Web services perform encapsulated business functions, ranging from simple request-reply to full business process interactions.
Work Map	Floodplain mapping submitted to FEMA by a mapping partner, reflecting the results of a flood study or other mapping activity. The work map depicts floodplain boundaries, regulatory floodway boundaries, BFEs, and cross-sections, and provides the basis for presentation of this information on a FIRM.