



FEMA

May 9, 2011

James G. Featherstone
Chairman, National Advisory Council
200 North Spring Street, Room 1533
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Featherstone:

Thank you for your letter and report of January 28, 2011, transmitting your recommendations for the implementation of the revised National Exercise Program (NEP). I appreciate the Council's response to our specific questions and subsequent guidance on how to best proceed with the NEP implementation.

We have reflected many of the Council's recommendations in the enclosed NEP base plan, which I recently approved. Specifically, we emphasized the whole community approach throughout the revised NEP, including the recommendation on incorporating the public, private sector and non-profits in exercises. I also agree with the Council's recommendation to make exercises as realistic as possible and to do so by deemphasizing scripted events and encouraging the full participation of our State, local, territorial, and tribal partners. In fact, we have already incorporated many of these principles in the upcoming National Level Exercise 11.

I have asked our National Preparedness Directorate to continue working with the Council throughout the development of the NEP follow-on implementation plan, which will provide further details on the exercise evaluation and after action process, limited notice exercises, and scheduling for the two-year NEP series. It is important that the Council is engaged throughout the implementation of the revised NEP, especially since the NEP series will be leveraging existing State, local, tribal and territorial exercises.

Thank you again for your time and attention to this matter. I appreciate the Council's continued support of the NEP and I welcome additional guidance as we proceed with the important implementation effort.

Sincerely,

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

W. Craig Fugate
Administrator

Enclosure