




FEMA

January 4, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Featherstone: 

Thank you for your letter of November 10, 2010, regarding the National Advisory Council's recommendations on the revised National Exercise Program.

I agree with the Council's recommendations, and FEMA has modified the NEP to reflect many of the Council's suggested changes in the document we recently submitted to the Secretary. Specifically, FEMA has emphasized the whole of community approach throughout the revised NEP, including the recommendation on incorporating the public, private sector and non-profits in exercises. FEMA also modified the language used in the NEP to describe local government, as we are all uniquely structured and our policies should be reflective of this diversity. Finally, I agree with examining the issue of stratification and have asked our National Preparedness Directorate to work with the Council throughout the development of the NEP follow-on implementation plan, to ensure the evaluation process is appropriately incorporated in the NEP in a way that is inclusive of local and tribal governments.

Again, I want to thank you and the Council for the recommendations and the continued commitment to improve the National Exercise Program and the preparedness of our Nation. We look forward to the additional feedback and recommendations throughout the implementation phase of the Program.

Sincerely,

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

W. Craig Fugate
Administrator