



FEMA

August 19, 2022

Dear Tribal Leader:

Yesterday, FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell released the [“2022-2026 FEMA National Tribal Strategy”](#) (“Strategy”). On behalf of FEMA leadership, thank you for your time and collaboration with us to realize this shared milestone. This could not have been done without your participation.

In support of our commitment to engage in consultation and collaboration with Tribal governments, the FEMA Tribal Affairs team conducted 14 virtual feedback sessions with Tribal Nations across all 10 FEMA regions to seek your input and recommendations on the draft Strategy. Tribal feedback before, during, and after these sessions helped identify and prioritize the most critical challenges facing Tribal Nations, FEMA, and the broader emergency management community.

Tribal representatives voiced overall support of the draft Strategy. FEMA heard the high-priority objectives during the feedback sessions and included the following within the Strategy:

- A need for financial support for tribal emergency management positions and programs;
- Development of a Tribal Nations’ needs assessment of tribal capacity and capability to perform emergency management functions;
- Development of a comprehensive guide of FEMA resources;
- Identification and delivery of additional and tribal-specific technical assistance and training opportunities; and
- An increase in face-to-face engagements.

Additionally, the National Tribal Strategy embodies the following tribal requests of FEMA:

- Coordinating monthly tribal affairs calls with tribal representatives and FEMA leaders;
- Hiring more tribal FEMA Integration Team staff to better support Tribal Nations and on par with states and territories to improve technical assistance, programmatic support, and training capabilities to Tribal Nations across all regions;
- Evaluating communication platforms for effectiveness in communicating with Tribal Nations;
- Translating FEMA products into Native American languages to enhance communications accessibility; and
- Creating a dedicated FEMA preparedness program for all risks and hazards, which increases climate literacy within tribal communities, specifically addressing sea level rise, erosion, tsunamis, and earthquake preparation.

Again, thank you for your participation and thoughtful comments. This letter concludes FEMA's tribal consultation process on this important initiative. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Office of External Affairs, Intergovernmental Affairs Division, via FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov.

Respectfully,

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