



Technical Mapping Advisory Committee Report

June 21, 2016

Fiscal Year 2015 Report to Congress



Homeland
Security

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Foreword

I am pleased to present the following “Technical Mapping Advisory Committee Report” prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

This report has been compiled in response to Senate Report 113-198, which accompanies the *Fiscal Year 2015 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act* (P.L. 114-4). An overview is included.

Pursuant to congressional requirements, this report is being provided to the following Members of Congress:

The Honorable John R. Carter
Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Inquiries relating to this report may be directed to me at (202) 646-3900 or to the Department’s Deputy Under Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer, Chip Fulghum, at (202) 447-5751.

Sincerely,



W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency





Technical Mapping Advisory Committee Report

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I. Legislative Language

This report responds to the language set forth in Senate Report 113-198, which accompanies the *Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act* (P.L. 114-4), and includes the following requirement.

The Committee understands that FEMA aims to have the Technical Mapping Advisory Committee [TMAC] commenced this summer as soon as members have completed the vetting process. FEMA is directed to provide a report to the Committee no later than 120 days after the commencement of the TMAC outlining the scope of its activities, timeframe for implementation of such activities, and any costs associated.

II. Background and Scope of Activities

The Technical Mapping Advisory Committee (TMAC) is a statutory federal advisory committee authorized under the *Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012* (BW-12) and governed by the *Federal Advisory Committee Act*. It was established to make recommendations to the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on matters related to the national flood mapping program. The TMAC is composed of federal, state, local, and private-sector members, as mandated in BW-12.

The TMAC advises the Administrator of FEMA on certain aspects of FEMA's flood risk mapping activities. The TMAC recommends to the Administrator: (1) how to improve in a cost-effective manner the accuracy, general quality, ease of use, and distribution and dissemination of flood insurance rate maps (FIRM) and risk data, and performance metrics and milestones required to map flood risk areas in the United States effectively and efficiently; (2) mapping standards and guidelines for FIRMs, and data accuracy, data quality, data currency, and data eligibility; (3) how to maintain, on an ongoing basis, FIRMs and flood risk identification; and (4) procedures for delegating mapping activities to state and local mapping partners.

The TMAC also must develop recommendations on how to ensure that FIRMs incorporate the best available climate science to assess flood risks and ensure that FEMA uses the best available methodology to consider the impact of the rise in sea level and of future development on flood risk. Finally, the TMAC must develop a review report related to flood mapping in support of the National Flood Insurance Program pursuant to the *Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014* (HFIAA).

The TMAC is required to deliver its recommendations in the form of certain required reports:

Following FEMA's receipt of TMAC recommendations, BW-12 Section 100215 requires FEMA to report to Congress and OMB. The TMAC is required to develop an annual report (referred to herein as "Annual Report") to the FEMA Administrator that contains:

- A description of the activities of the TMAC
- A summary of recommendations made by the TMAC to the Administrator

Within the first year of enactment, the TMAC is required to produce written recommendations in a future conditions risk assessment and modeling report and to submit such recommendations to the Administrator (referred to herein as "Future Conditions Report").

HFIAA requires the TMAC to develop a technical review report related to the implementation of a flood mapping program for the National Flood Insurance Program (referred to herein as “Technical Review Report”). The review report, which will be delivered on July 1, 2016, will evaluate the status and performance of FIRMs and mapping activities to revise and update FIRMs.

III. Discussion/Implementation Timeline

TMAC member appointment letters were issued in July 2014, followed by a rolling appointment of additional TMAC subcommittee members, who were selected to inform the TMAC's recommendations and to help support the research, outline, content, and production of the mandatory reports set for delivery in October 2015 (interim) and December 2015 (final). Subject matter experts (SME) on topics including climate science, state-level floodplain management, local flood control districts, and tribes were added as an additional resource to support subcommittees. In 2015, subcommittees were formed to support the Annual Report and Future Conditions Report. Subcommittees included both TMAC members and SMEs, with a majority of TMAC members.

The TMAC held its first public meeting on September 30 and October 1, 2014, and held six public meetings in its first year:

- September 30-October 1, 2014. During this open public meeting, the TMAC heard from invited SMEs and elected a Chair, who appointed Vice-Chairs.
- December 4-5, 2014. The TMAC heard from additional SMEs and deliberated and voted on its vision, mission, and guiding principles.
- March 10-11, 2015. The TMAC heard from invited SMEs and deliberated and voted on 2015 report topics for the Annual Report and the Future Conditions Report.
- May 12-13, 2015. The TMAC deliberated and voted to adopt outlines and tables of contents for the Annual Report and the Future Conditions Report.
- June 23-24, 2015. The TMAC deliberated and voted on the annotated outlines for the reports.
- August 4-5, 2015. The TMAC deliberated and voted on content for the reports due in October 2015.
- September 9, 2015. The TMAC deliberated and voted on content for the reports due in October 2015.
- September 29, 2015. The TMAC deliberated and voted on content for the reports due in October 2015.
- October 20-21, 2015. The TMAC deliberated and voted on content for the reports due in October 2015 (interim report with final recommendations).
- December 9-10, 2015. The TMAC deliberated and voted on content for the final reports due in December 2015 (full language of the reports providing context for the recommendations).

In 2015, the TMAC accomplished the following:

- Elected a Chair, who appointed Vice-Chairs

- Formed two subcommittees (a Future Conditions Subcommittee and an Annual Report Subcommittee)
- Added additional subcommittee members to help inform the TMAC's recommendations and to help support the research, outline, content, and production of the mandatory reports delivered as interim reports with full recommendations in October 2015, and as final reports in December 2015
- Engaged a tribal representative as an SME
- Deliberated, voted on, and adopted a vision, mission, and guiding principles for the TMAC
- Deliberated, voted on, and adopted outlines and tables of contents with topics for the Annual Report and the Future Conditions Report, during the May 12-13, 2015, TMAC meeting

The Annual Report included a summary of TMAC activities and recommendations made that year. The Future Conditions Report is the required climate change report mandated by BW-12.

In 2016, the TMAC is on track to deliver two reports, as follows and as illustrated in Figure 1.

- **Technical Review Report – 2016:** The TMAC's Technical Review Report, mandated by HFIAA, is intended to inform the FEMA Administrator's certification that the program will produce technically credible flood hazard data in all areas where FIRMs are prepared or updated. The TMAC's Technical Review Report will include FEMA's description of the current mapping program and proposed measures for achieving full compliance with BW-12 Section 100216 (216-Compliant) and HFIAA.
- **2nd Annual Report – 2016:** The 2nd Annual Report will provide additional TMAC recommendations addressing how FEMA can most effectively achieve BW-12 and HFIAA programmatic requirements.

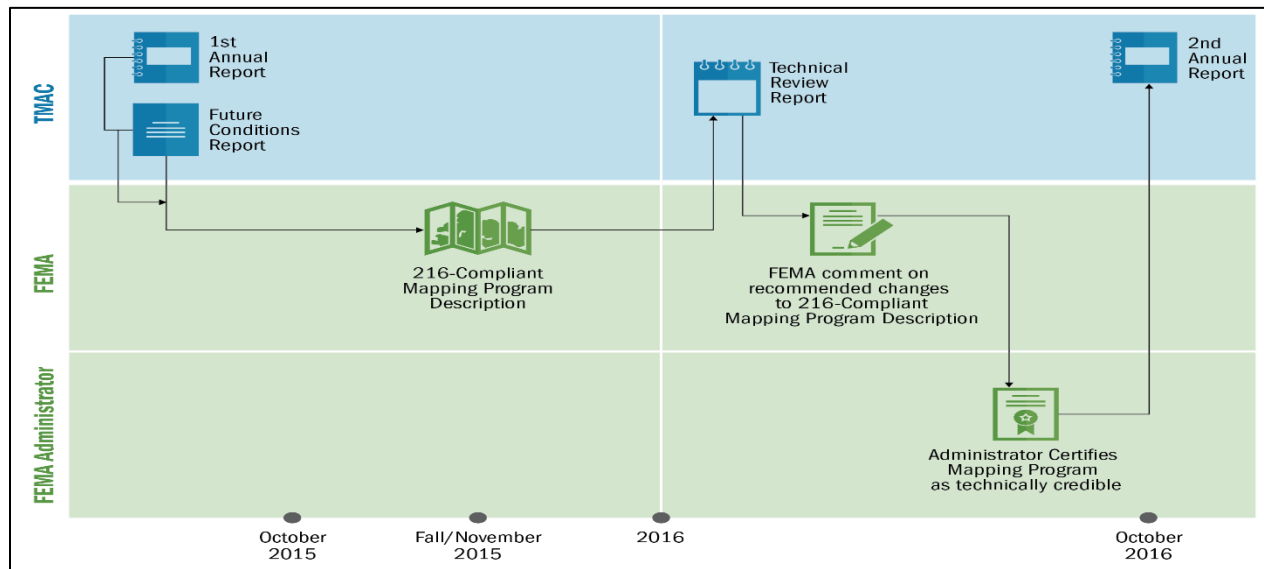


Figure 1: TMAC Report Timeline 2015-2016

Further details on the TMAC, including its charter, bylaws, membership, subcommittees, Federal Register notices, and meeting materials (including agendas and meeting summary notes) are available on FEMA’s public website at www.fema.gov/tmac.

IV. Expenditure Plan

The following paragraphs discuss how the TMAC aligns with the strategic goals of DHS and FEMA, and how the activities of the TMAC are furthering the objective to produce the two reports discussed earlier.

- *Project alignment with the strategic goals of DHS and FEMA:* The TMAC aligns with FEMA's FY 2014-2018 Strategic Plan to provide the best possible support to the American people before, during, and after disasters. Specifically, the TMAC aligns with FEMA's Priority Number 4, to enable disaster risk reduction nationally, by giving communities the best available data and analytic tools to make better risk-informed decisions before, during, and after disasters. The TMAC furthers this goal by making recommendations to FEMA for improving the Nation's flood mapping program. The FEMA Strategic Plan supports Mission 5 (strengthen national preparedness and resilience) of the DHS Strategic Plan for FYs 2014-2018.
- *How activities further the objectives of the project:* The TMAC needed to meet frequently during its first year to meet legislative requirements and support the rigorous report production schedule mandated under BW-12 and HFIAA, which requires the production of multiple reports within its first year. Through its membership and through public access, the TMAC provides an opportunity for all stakeholders in the national flood mapping program to share information critical to the future development of the program, as mandated by Congress. FEMA is using a meeting strategy that focuses on virtual meetings, but also allows for several in-person meetings, at critical junctures to enable meaningful discussion and deliberation prior to making recommendations and producing reports.

Table 1: TMAC Obligations and Expenditures¹

	Obligations		Expenditures	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
FY 2014	\$475,000	\$472,775	\$467,775	\$360,771
FY 2015	\$650,000	\$641,350	\$641,350	\$850,583

¹Funding to support the TMAC comes from the Risk MAP Program funding, which is associated with the Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis appropriations. Program funding periods vary by support contract and do not correspond to the federal fiscal year calendar of October 1st to September 30th. The obligation and expenditure figures reported for 2015 reflect what FEMA expended in direct support of meetings and activities by the TMAC that resulted in the 2015 Annual Report and Future Conditions reports.

Table 2: TMAC Travel Costs

	Planned	Actual
FY 2015	\$125,000.00	\$91,695.86