

## Cox, Sally A (CED)

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**From:** KenaiCoastalPMR@starr-team.com on behalf of RSCX <RXProjectUpdates@starr-team.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2015 2:08 PM  
**To:** Cox, Sally A (CED)  
**Subject:** Risk MAP Project Quarterly Report for Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska

Greetings,

My name is Matt Witosky and I am part of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) Project Team, working with the Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction (STARR), a contractor for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This email is being sent to you as a status update for work completed on this project as of November 3, 2015. Detailed status updates like this are sent quarterly and include the overall project status, changes to the scope or schedule of the project, and a detailed overview of the individual technical tasks associated with the project.

### Project History:

FEMA is responsible for preparing Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that delineate flood hazard zones and Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) in the United States. Because of the importance of understanding the nation's coastal flood risk, FEMA has initiated coastal flood risk studies for the populated coastline as part of its [Risk MAP](#) effort. Through the Risk MAP effort, FEMA is updating the nation's coastal [Flood Insurance Studies \(FISs\)](#) and [FIRMs](#), where appropriate, and publishing new FIRMs in densely populated areas that were not previously mapped. For more information, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/coastal-flood-risks-achieving-resilience-together>.

The State of Alaska identified the Kenai Peninsula Borough as a priority for FEMA's Risk MAP program. The State determines its priorities based on population at risk to hazards, recent events, and community interest. FEMA, State, and Local stakeholders participated in a Risk MAP Discovery/Scoping Meeting held March 2, 2011 where community concerns were identified. These concerns were captured in the Risk MAP Discovery Report and delivered to the communities in the borough. After the Discovery/ Scoping Meeting, community concerns were researched and analyzed, in order to develop a scope of work that includes multi-hazard risk assessment products and updates to the communities' regulatory flood maps based on community-identified resilience needs.

### Project Milestones and Deliverables:

Meeting/Deliverable	Point of Contact	Actual/Projected Date
Risk MAP Discovery Meeting	Tom Tufts	March 2, 2011
Flood Study Kick-Off Meeting	Tom Tufts	July 23-26, 2012
Flood Risk Review Meeting (FRR)/Draft Maps	Tom Tufts	August 27-28, 2013
Preliminary DFIRM/FIS Release	Tom Tufts	June 13, 2014
Consultation Coordination Officers (CCO) Meeting	Ted Perkins	September 9-11, 2014
Public Meeting/Workshop	Ted Perkins	September 9-11, 2014
Appeal Period Starts	Matt Witosky	1 <sup>st</sup> Start: January 28, 2015 2 <sup>nd</sup> Start: August 12, 2015
Appeal Period Ends	Matt Witosky	1 <sup>st</sup> End: April 28, 2015 2 <sup>nd</sup> End: November 10, 2015
Letter of Final Determination	Matt Witosky	Early April 2016*
Draft Multi-Hazard Risk Report	Amanda Siok	Early April 2016*
Risk MAP Resilience Workshop	Amanda Siok	Summer 2016*
Delivery of Final Risk Report and Risk Assessment Database	Amanda Siok	Summer 2016*
Maps and FIS become Effective	Ted Perkins	Early September 2016*

*\*All projected dates are subject to revision as the project progresses.*

### Next Steps:

Due to a map repository address error for the City of Seward on a Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Map Index, a correction notice was submitted to FEMA. As a result, a subsequent Appeals and Protests period for the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the City of Seward had to be issued. The Appeal Period continues for 90 days after the second publication in the local newspaper. All comments and/or appeals must be submitted during this 90-day Appeal Period. The Appeals and Protests period for the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the City of Seward began on August 12, 2015 and ended on November 10, 2015. The City of Homer had an appeal period that ended on May 28, 2015. The City of Homer sat idle while the second Appeal Period for the Borough and City of Seward took place.

With the Appeal Period over, we are now working to prepare the Letter of Final Determination (LFD) and to finalize the regulatory products (FIS, DFIRMs, SOMAs, etc.). The LFD is scheduled for April 2016 and the effective date for the project will be six months after.

After the LFD has been issued, the community will have six months to adopt up-to-date floodplain management ordinances. If the floodplain ordinances in effect are satisfactory, in accordance with State law, they may be submitted in their current form. Communities should verify this with their NFIP State Coordinator. If ordinances need to be updated, communities should also seek assistance from their NFIP State Coordinator or the Regional FEMA office in Bothell, WA. After the six-month compliance period, the new FIS and FIRM will become effective.

Additional information on this project including the project area and Risk MAP contacts can be found online at:

[http://www.starr-team.com/starr/RegionalWorkspaces/RegionX/Kenai\\_Coastal/SitePages/Home.aspx](http://www.starr-team.com/starr/RegionalWorkspaces/RegionX/Kenai_Coastal/SitePages/Home.aspx)

*NOTE: If you have trouble downloading or are prompted for credentials when clicking the file name on the website, cancel the prompt and instead right-click the file name and choose "Save As" or "Save Target As".*

**General Information:**

If you have questions about this Risk MAP project, please contact the State Risk MAP Coordinator, Sally Russell Cox, [sally.cox@alaska.gov](mailto:sally.cox@alaska.gov), (907) 269-4588.

The STARR Region X Help Desk is another resource available to answer project-related questions. STARR staff will route and research your question, and respond within three business days. Submit your questions via email, the address is [RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com](mailto:RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com).

If you want to keep up with what's happening around Region X, get project status updates, or learn about upcoming events and training opportunities, subscribe to the Region X monthly newsletter. For more information or to subscribe, email [rxnewsletter@starr-team.com](mailto:rxnewsletter@starr-team.com).

Current and past issues of the newsletter, project status updates, announcements, upcoming events, and training opportunities are also available online at the STARR website, [www.starr-team.com](http://www.starr-team.com) (shortcut link: <http://j.mp/starrxnews>).

I hope you found this status update email helpful. If you would like to be removed from the distribution list, or if you feel there is someone that should be added to the list, please reply to this email. If you have any questions, or if there is information that you would like to see in future updates, please feel free to contact me by phone or email. My contact information is below.

Sincerely,

**Matt Witosky**  
Project Manager

**STARR - Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction**

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**This message was sent by RSCX to the following:**

Amanda Siok - Risk Analyst - FEMA Region X RAB  
Ann Gravier - Alaska State Hazard Mitigation Officer - State of Alaska  
Crane Johnson - NOAA - Senior Hydrologist - Alaska Pacific River Forecast Center  
Dan Mahalak - Geohydrologist - Kenai Peninsula Borough  
Donna Glenz - FPA, Associate Planner - City of Seward  
Dotti Harness-Foster - FPA, Planning Technician - City of Homer  
Harmony Curtis - Floodplain Manager - Kenai Peninsula Borough  
Jean Bardarson - Mayor - City of Seward  
Jim Hunt - City Manager - City of Seward  
Karen Wood-McGuiness - Floodplain Management Specialist - FEMA Region X FMI  
Kristen Meyers - Senior Mitigation Planner - FEMA Region X RAB  
Mary (Beth) Wythe - Mayor - City of Homer  
Matt Witosky - Project Manager - STARR  
Matthew Kelley - City Planner - City of Kenai  
Mike Navarre - Mayor - Kenai Peninsula Borough  
Pat Porter - Mayor - City of Kenai  
Region X Service Center - STARR  
Rick Abboud - City Planner - City of Homer  
Ron Long - Community Development Director/Assistant City Manager - City of Seward  
Sally Russell Cox - Alaska Risk MAP Coordinator - State of Alaska  
Scott Van Hoff - Floodplain Management Specialist - FEMA Region X FMI  
Stephanie Presley - Service Area Coordinator - Seward/Bear Creek Flood Service Area  
Tamra Biasco - Risk Analysis Branch Chief - FEMA Region X RAB  
Taunnie Boothby - Alaska State NFIP Coordinator - State of Alaska  
Ted Perkins - Regional Engineer - FEMA Region X RAB  
Tom Tufts - Lead Project Manager - STARR