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 July 26, 2016. 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 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 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting/Deliverable</th>
<th>Point of Contact</th>
<th>Actual/Projected Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Risk MAP Discovery Meeting</td>
<td>Tom Tufts</td>
<td>March 2, 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flood Study Kick-Off Meeting</td>
<td>Tom Tufts</td>
<td>July 23-26, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flood Risk Review Meeting (FRR)/Draft Maps</td>
<td>Tom Tufts</td>
<td>August 27-28, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preliminary DFIRM/FIS Release</td>
<td>Tom Tufts</td>
<td>June 13, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultation Coordination Officers (CCO) Meeting</td>
<td>Ted Perkins</td>
<td>September 9-11, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Meeting/Workshop</td>
<td>Ted Perkins</td>
<td>September 9-11, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appeal Period Starts</td>
<td>Matt Witosky</td>
<td>1st Start: January 28, 2015</td>
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<td>2nd Start: August 12, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appeal Period Ends</td>
<td>Matt Witosky</td>
<td>1st End: April 28, 2015</td>
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<td>2nd End: November 10, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letter of Final Determination</td>
<td>Matt Witosky</td>
<td>April 20, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Multi-Hazard Risk Report</td>
<td>Amanda Siok</td>
<td>Summer 2016*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risk MAP Resilience Workshop</td>
<td>Amanda Siok</td>
<td>Fall 2016*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delivery of Final Risk Report and Risk Assessment Database</td>
<td>Amanda Siok</td>
<td>Fall/Winter 2016*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maps and FIS become Effective</td>
<td>Ted Perkins</td>
<td>October 20, 2016</td>
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*All projected dates are subject to revision as the project progresses.

**Recent Activity**

FEMA funded its contractor, STARR, to develop a multi-hazard Risk Report for the Kenai area as part of the ongoing Risk MAP study. Risk assessments have been completed for tsunami, dam failure, erosion and flood
hazards. Technical issues are being experienced when running the earthquake hazard data through Hazus, FEMA's loss estimation software; The issues are currently being explored. Once these issues are resolved, the results will be compiled into the Risk MAP Risk Report. FEMA and the State Risk MAP Coordinator, Sally Cox, will then be in touch to schedule a Resilience Workshop to review results and develop risk reduction strategies.

**Next Steps**

The statutory 90-day Appeal Period officially ended on November 10, 2015. All necessary FEMA mandatory reviews took place and the Letter of Final Determination (LFD) date was April 20, 2016. The LFD letters were sent to each affected flood-prone community participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Now that the LFD has been issued, the communities will have six months to adopt up-to-date floodplain management ordinances. Not doing so will lead to suspension from the NFIP. If assistance is needed, communities should contact their NFIP State Coordinator, Jimmy C. Smith, at jimmy.smith@alaska.gov, or the Regional FEMA NFIP specialist, Karen Wood-McGuiness, at Karen.Wood-mcguiness@fema.dhs.gov. 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, (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.

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.

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/starrrxnews](http://j.mp/starrrxnews)).

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
- Brett Holt - Mitigation Planner - FEMA Region X RAB
- Bryr Harris - Floodplain Administrator - Kenai Peninsula Borough
- Crane Johnson - Senior Hydrologist - Alaska - Pacific River Forecast Center - NOAA
- Dan Mahalak - Geohydrologist - Kenai Peninsula Borough
- De Anne Stevens - Geologist - State of Alaska
- Donna Glenz - FPA, Planner - City of Seward
- Dotti Harness-Foster - FPA, Planning Technician - City of Homer
- Jamie Mooney - Region X CERC Lead - Resilience Action Partners
- Jean Bardarson - Mayor - City of Seward
- Jim Hunt - City Manager - City of Seward
- Jimmy C. Smith - Alaska State NFIP Coordinator - State of Alaska
- Karen Wood-McGuiness - Floodplain Management Specialist - FEMA Region X FMI
- Marshall Rivers - Project Manager - Resilience Action Partners
- Mary (Beth) Wythe - Mayor - City of Homer
- Matt Witosky - Project Manager - STARR
- Matthew Kelley - City Planner - City of Kenai
- Michael West - State Seismologist - State of Alaska
- Mike Navarre - Mayor - Kenai Peninsula Borough
- Pat Porter - Mayor - City of Kenai
- Rachael Norris - Government Affairs - FEMA Region X
  Region X Service Center
- 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
- Stephanie Presley - Seward/Bear Creek Flood Service Area Coordinator - Kenai Peninsula Borough
- Steve Masterson - State Geologist/Director - State of Alaska
- Tamra Biasco - Risk Analysis Branch Chief - FEMA Region X RAB
- Ted Perkins - Regional Engineer - FEMA Region X RAB
- Tom Tufts - Lead Project Manager - STARR
- Wendy Shaw - Hydraulic Engineer - USACE, Alaska District