

## Cox, Sally A (CED)

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**From:** SitkaCoastalPMR@starr-team.com on behalf of RSCX <RXProjectUpdates@starr-team.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 10:30 AM  
**To:** Cox, Sally A (CED)  
**Subject:** Risk MAP Project Quarterly Report for the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska

Greetings,

My name is Matt Witosky and I am part of the City and Borough of Sitka 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 February 5, 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 City and Borough of Sitka as a priority for FEMA's Risk MAP program for this reason. 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 August 5, 2013 where community concerns were identified. These concerns were captured in the Risk MAP Discovery Report and delivered to the communities in the City and Borough of Sitka. 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 based on community-identified resilience needs.

### Project Milestones and Deliverables

Meeting/Deliverable	Point of Contact	Actual/Projected Date
Risk MAP Discovery Meeting	Matt Witosky	August 5, 2013
Flood Risk Review (FRR) Meeting/Draft Maps	Matt Witosky	February 2, 2016
Preliminary DFIRM/FIS Release	Matt Witosky	June 2016*
Consultation Coordination Officers (CCO) Meeting	Ted Perkins	July 2016*
Public Meeting/Workshop	Community Engagement and Risk Communications Lead	July 2016*
Appeal Period Start	Matt Witosky	September 2016*
Appeal Period Ends	Matt Witosky	December 2016*
Letter of Final Determination	Matt Witosky	Spring 2017*
Draft Multi-Hazard Risk Report	Amanda Siok	Spring/Summer 2016*
Risk MAP Resilience Workshop	Amanda Siok	Spring/Summer 2016*
Delivery of Final Report and Risk Assessment Database	Amanda Siok	Fall 2016*
Maps and FIS become Effective	Ted Perkins	Fall 2017*

*\*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 Sitka area as part of the ongoing Risk MAP study. The Risk Report will include a risk assessment of Avalanche, earthquake, erosion, flood, landslide, and tsunami hazards. Hazus, FEMA's loss estimation software, will be used to assess earthquake and flood hazards.

STARR has completed the coastal analysis, and draft maps were shared with the Region and communities for initial review at the Flood Risk Review (FRR) Meeting that was held on February 2, 2016. The scope of the meeting was to solicit feedback on the draft maps in advance of the issuance of Preliminary Maps, and inform the communities about the map adoption process.

## **Next Steps**

In October of 2015, FEMA Region X issued a new task order to continue the production of the City and Borough of Sitka, AK Coastal Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) project. The tasks to be completed include the production and distribution of preliminary DFIRM mapping along with a Consultation Coordination Officers (CCO) Meeting. Currently, the draft maps are being reviewed by your community over the next 30 days. Once all comments have been addressed, the DFIRM maps will be produced and will undergo quality reviews. The preliminary maps should be completed and distributed in June 2016. The CCO Meeting will be planned and scheduled in the month or so after the maps are distributed.

Once all risk assessments are completed, they will be compiled into the Risk MAP Risk Report and a Resilience Workshop will be held to discuss the results and risk reduction strategies. The Resilience Workshop is expected to take place in late spring or early summer 2016.

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/Sitka/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  
Brett Holt - Mitigation Planner - FEMA Region X RAB  
Charles Hackett - Deputy Harbormaster - City & Borough of Sitka  
Chris Duguay - Interim Building Official - City & Borough of Sitka  
Crane Johnson - Senior Hydrologist, Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center - NOAA  
Dan Tadic - Municipal Engineer, Public Works - City & Borough of Sitka  
Dave Miller - Fire Chief - City & Borough of Sitka  
David Longtin - Senior Engineer, Public Works - City & Borough of Sitka  
De Anne Stevens - Geologist - State of Alaska  
Emy Sumauang - Assistant Harbormaster - City & Borough of Sitka  
Jeremiah Johnson - Assistant Harbormaster - City & Borough of Sitka  
Karen Wood-McGuiness - Floodplain Management Specialist - FEMA Region X FMI  
Maegan Bosak - Planning and Community Development Director - City & Borough of Sitka  
Mark Gorman - Municipal Administrator - City & Borough of Sitka  
Marlene Campbell - Coastal Management Coordinator - City & Borough of Sitka  
Matt Witosky - Project Manager - STARR  
Michael Harmon - Public Works Director - City & Borough of Sitka  
Michael Scarcelli - Senior Planner - City & Borough of Sitka  
Michael West - State Seismologist - State of Alaska  
Mim McConnell - Mayor - City & Borough of Sitka  
Rachael Norris - Government Affairs - FEMA Region X  
Region X Service Center - STARR  
Sally Russell Cox - Alaska Risk MAP Coordinator - State of Alaska  
Samantha Pierson - Planner I - City & Borough of Sitka  
Sara Peterson - Municipal Clerk - City & Borough of Sitka  
Stan Eliason - Harbormaster - City & Borough of Sitka  
Stephen Weatherman - Senior Engineer, Public Works - City & Borough of Sitka  
Steve Masterman - State Geologist/Director - State of Alaska  
Tamra Biasco - Risk Analysis Branch Chief - FEMA Region X RAB  
Ted Perkins - Regional Engineer - FEMA Region X RAB  
Thomas Climo - Assistant Harbormaster - City & Borough of Sitka  
Tom Tufts - Lead Project Manager - STARR  
Wayne Dye - O'Neill Engineering