

Cox, Sally A (CED)

From: SitkaCoastalPMR@starr-team.com on behalf of RSCX <RXProjectUpdates@starr-team.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 3:38 PM
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 II), 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 August 10, 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 30, 2016
Consultation Coordination Officers (CCO) Webinar	Ted Perkins	September 2016*
CCO Meeting and Public Meeting/Open House	Jamie Mooney	October/November 2016*
Draft Multi-Hazard Risk Report	Amanda Siok	Winter 2016/2017*
Risk MAP Resilience Workshop	Amanda Siok	Spring/Summer 2017*
Delivery of Final Report and Risk Assessment Database	Amanda Siok	Summer 2017*
Appeal Period Start	Matt Witosky	November/December 2016*
Appeal Period Ends	Matt Witosky	February/March 2017*
Letter of Final Determination	Matt Witosky	Summer 2017*
Maps and FIS become Effective	Ted Perkins	Winter 2017/2018*

**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 earthquake, erosion, flood, landslides, and tsunami hazards. Hazus, FEMA's loss estimation software, will be used to assess earthquake and flood results. Additionally, FEMA has worked with the Alaska Department of Geological and Geophysical Surveys Division (AK DGGs) to conduct an even more extensive study of the landslide hazards and risks in the area. AK DGGs will begin work on this assessment October 1, 2016.

Next Steps

Once the risk assessments are completed, they will be compiled into the Risk MAP Risk Report and a Resilience Workshop will be held to discuss the assessment results and risk reduction strategies. The two year scope of work for DGGs to conduct additional landslide assessments complicates the scheduling of the Resilience Workshop. Sitka may choose to hold a Resilience Workshop next summer to review the FEMA/STARR conducted risk assessments with a follow-up meeting after DGGs completes its landslide assessments the summer of 2018; Alternatively, the City of Sitka may choose to postpone the Resilience Workshop entirely, until DGGs has completed its assessments. The City of Sitka will need to communicate its preference with FEMA.

On June 30, 2016, FEMA issued updated preliminary mapping for the City and Borough of Sitka. Following the issuance of preliminary mapping is the Consultation Coordination Officers (CCO) Meeting. The CCO Meeting will be planned and scheduled about 30 days after the maps are distributed. The CCO meeting is designed to provide information to the communities about the map review process and address any initial questions regarding the preliminary flood hazard data.

Subsequent to the CCO Meeting, FEMA will initiate a statutory 90-day comment and appeal period. The appeal period is the time when protests and appeals, with supporting technical data, may be submitted. It is during this time that both technical and non-technical data will be accepted and reviewed for possible incorporation into the maps. Communities will receive a letter approximately two weeks before the start of the 90-day appeal period, which will detail the appeal process. Any interested party who wishes to appeal should present the data that tend to negate or contradict our findings to the agency responsible for floodplain management. That agency will then submit appeals to FEMA Region X directly. If an appeal or protest results in significant changes, FEMA will revise the FIS report and FIRM and send revised copies to your community for review. More details on the appeal process will be provided in the aforementioned letter and can also be found at http://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/BFE_Status/bfe_main.asp.

At the end of the 90-day appeal period and following the resolution of any comments, FEMA will send you a Letter of Final BFE Determinations (LFD). The scheduled LFD date could change if there are comments, protests, or appeals that require additional processing of the FIS and DFIRM.

The effective date for the project will be six months after the LFD.

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, (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 (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 II - Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction

5565 Centerview Drive, Suite 107
Raleigh, NC 27606
Tel: (919) 532-2308
Fax: (919) 851-8393
matt.witosky@stantec.com

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
Charles Hackett - Deputy Harbormaster - City & Borough of Sitka
Chris Duguay - 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
Jamie Mooney - Region X CERC Lead - Resilience Action Partners
Jeremiah Johnson - Assistant Harbormaster - City & Borough of Sitka
Jimmy C. Smith - Alaska State NFIP Coordinator - State of Alaska
Karen Wood-McGuinness - 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
Marshall Rivers - Project Manager - Resilience Action Partners
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
Wendy Shaw - Hydraulic Engineer - USACE, Alaska District