



FEMA

August 29, 2013

John Palatiello, Executive Director
Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors – MAPPS
1856 Old Reston Avenue, Suite 205
Reston, VA 20190

Dear Mr. Palatiello:

I would like to request your assistance with identifying members of your Association for consideration to serve on the Technical Mapping Advisory Council (TMAC) pursuant to the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12) that was signed into law on July 6, 2012. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for appointing members who meet certain requirements to serve on the TMAC. A notice of the opportunity to apply for consideration will be published in the Federal Register in the near future.

Associations/Organizations are encouraged to submit qualified applicants that meet representation requirements to FEMA for consideration. See, e.g., 42 U.S.C. section 4101a(b)(E) subparts(i) a member of a recognized professional surveying association or organization; (ii) a member of a recognized professional mapping association or organization; (iii) a member of a recognized professional engineering association or organization; (iv) a member of a recognized professional association or organization representing flood hazard determination firms; (v) a representative of a recognized professional association or organization representing State geographic information; (vi) a representative of State national flood insurance coordination offices; (vii) a representative of State regional flood and storm water management organization (x) 2 representatives of different State government agencies that have entered into cooperating technical partnerships with the Administrator and have demonstrated the capability to produce flood insurance rate maps; (xi) 2 representatives of different local government agencies that have entered into cooperating technical partnerships with the Administrator and have demonstrated the capability to produce flood insurance maps; (xii) A member of a recognized floodplain management association; (xiii) a member of a recognized risk management association or organization.

BW-12 reauthorizes and reforms the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for five years through September 30, 2017. Among the numerous reforms and mandates included in the law is a requirement to establish the TMAC to address NFIP mapping reform. The TMAC is to include members from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, other federal agencies, state and local governments, as well as experts from private stakeholder groups.

The duties of the TMAC include making recommendations to the FEMA Administrator regarding: (1) procedures to cost-effectively improve the accuracy, general quality, performance metrics, and

other aspects of preparing Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs); (2) mapping standards and guidelines for FIRMs; (3) map maintenance; (4) delegation of mapping activities to State and local mapping partners; (5) improving interagency and intergovernmental coordination and leveraging; and (6) submitting an annual report to the FEMA Administrator that contains a description of annual activities, an evaluation of the status and performance of FIRMS and mapping activities to revise and update FIRMs, and a summary of recommendations. The TMAC is also required to consult with scientists and technical experts, other Federal agencies, States, and local officials to develop recommendations regarding consideration of future conditions (based on best available climate science, sea level rise data, and predictions of future development) with respect to preparation of FIRMS. Based on these consultations, the TMAC is required to prepare a separate report from the TMAC to the FEMA Administrator that will contain recommendations regarding the treatment of future conditions within the context of the NFIP. Enclosed is a copy of the Charter, which describes the structure and functions of the Committee.

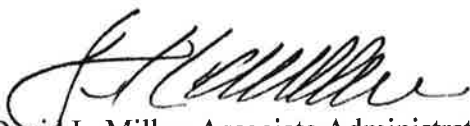
Given the above background and summary, I would appreciate your help with identifying members of your association/organization for consideration to serve on the TMAC. To the extent possible, please also include a resume and letter of recommendation for each member of your association/organization that you have identified. The resume and letter of recommendation should include relevant qualifications on one or more of the following specialties: surveying, cartography, remote sensing, geographic information systems, or the technical aspects of preparing and using Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). A background or familiarity with climate or land use change and/or tribal issues would be useful, but is not a prerequisite. It is anticipated that meetings will be held in the Washington DC area, and that the membership term shall be no longer than 2 years. Please be advised that this correspondence is informational in nature and does not constitute or ensure an appointment to the TMAC.

Please direct responses to this letter to Mark Crowell of my staff at: Mark.Crowell@FEMA.DHS.gov. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Mark Crowell at 202-646-3432, or Mike Godesky at 202-646-2752.

For your information, I have attached the relevant portion of Biggert-Waters that describes TMAC.

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter. Please submit any potential nominees by September 13, 2013.

Sincerely,



David L. Miller, Associate Administrator
Federal Insurance & Mitigation Administration