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**Subject:** Risk MAP Project Quarterly Report for Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska  
**Date:** Friday, April 01, 2016 9:40:00 PM

Greetings,

My name is Emily Whitehead and I am part of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MatSu) 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 March 15, 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:**

The State of Alaska identified the MatSu Watershed 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 April 23, 2013 where community concerns were identified. These concerns were captured in the Risk MAP Discovery Report and delivered to the communities in the watershed. 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**

Meeting/Deliverable	Point of Contact	Actual/Projected Date
Risk MAP Discovery Meeting	Emily Whitehead	April 23, 2013
Flood Study Kick-Off Meeting	Emily Whitehead	December 13, 2013
Draft Map Release	Emily Whitehead	August 28, 2015
Flood Risk Review (FRR) Meeting	Emily Whitehead	January 20, 2016
Preliminary DFIRM/FIS Release	Emily Whitehead	August 2016*
Consultation Coordination Officers (CCO) Meeting	Ted Perkins	September/October 2016*
Public Meeting/Workshop	Community Engagement and Risk Communications Lead	Fall 2016
Appeal Period Starts	Emily Whitehead	Fall 2017*
Appeal Period Ends	Emily Whitehead	Spring 2017*
Letter of Final Determination (LFD)	Emily Whitehead	Fall 2017*
Draft Multi-Hazard Risk Report	Amanda Siok	Fall/Winter 2016*
Risk MAP Resilience Workshop	Amanda Siok	Fall/Winter 2016*
Delivery of Final Risk Report and Risk	Amanda Siok	Winter/Spring 2017*

Assessment Database		
Maps and FIS become Effective	Ted Perkins	Early 2018*

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

## Recent Activity

The Flood Risk Review (FRR) Meeting was held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 in Palmer, AK. The FRR meeting discussions included the draft workmaps (released on August 28, 2015), methodologies utilized for draft workmap production, project history, and remaining project milestones/schedule. FEMA approved added scope requests at the FRR meeting including: Extension of Kroto Creek (~ 16 miles) and Wasilla Creek (~ 2-3 miles) flood models and flood hazard mapping; and re-delineation of Lucile Lake and Wasilla Lake flood hazard boundaries to 1%-annual-chance-flood static NAVD88 elevations, using 2011/2012 MatSu LiDAR as topographic basemap data source.

The draft workmap comment period started at the FRR meeting and ends on Friday, April 8, 2016. Comments received verbally at the FRR meeting are currently being addressed. Additional comments should be sent to Ted Perkins with FEMA Region X ([Dwight.Perkins@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Dwight.Perkins@fema.dhs.gov)), copying Emily Whitehead with STARR ([emily.whitehead@starr-team.com](mailto:emily.whitehead@starr-team.com)). There will be another opportunity to comment on the flood hazard data during a 90-day appeal period. Details regarding the appeal period, including schedule, will be provided following preliminary DFIRM/FIS distribution (currently scheduled for August 19, 2016).

FEMA funded its contractor, STARR, to develop a multi-hazard Risk Report for the Mat-Su area as part of the ongoing Risk MAP study. The Risk Report will include a risk assessment of earthquake, flood, and landslide hazards. Hazus, FEMA's loss estimation software, will be used to assess earthquake and flood hazards.

## Next Steps:

Local comments on the draft workmap data will be addressed prior to preliminary DFIRM products distribution.

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 spring 2017.

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/MatSuDisco/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 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,

**Emily Whitehead, CFM, GISP**  
Project Manager

### **STARR - Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction**

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

Alex Strawn - Development Services Manager/Floodplain Manager - MatSu Borough  
Amanda Siok - Risk Analyst - FEMA Region X RAB  
Ann Gravier - Alaska State Hazard Mitigation Officer - State of Alaska  
Bert Cottle - Mayor - City of Wasilla  
Bill Gamble - Director of Emergency Services - MatSu Borough  
Brett Holt - Mitigation Planner - FEMA Region X RAB  
Casey Cook - Emergency Manager - MatSu Borough  
Crane Johnson - Senior Hydrologist, Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center - NOAA  
De Anne Stevens - Geologist - State of Alaska  
DeLena Johnson - Mayor - City of Palmer  
Eileen Probasco - Planning and Land Use Director - MatSu Borough  
Emily Whitehead - Project Manager - STARR  
George Hays - Assistant Manager - MatSu Borough  
Gretchen O'Barr - Deputy Mayor - City of Wasilla  
Jamie Mooney - Region X CERC Lead - Resilience Action Partners  
Jim Sykes - Assembly Member, District 1 - MatSu Borough  
John Moosey - Borough Manager - MatSu Borough  
Karen Wood-McGuinness - Floodplain Management Specialist - FEMA Region X FMI  
Kendra Johnson - Code Compliance Officer - MatSu Borough  
Kevin Sumner - Code Compliance Officer/Planner - MatSu Borough  
Marshall Rivers - Project Manager - Resilience Action Partners  
Michael West - State Seismologist - State of Alaska  
Michelle Olsen - Permit Technician/Deputy Floodplain Manager - MatSu Borough  
Nathan Wallace - City Manager - City of Palmer  
Pamela Ness - Code Compliance Officer/Floodplain Administrator - MatSu Borough  
Rachael Norris - Government Affairs - FEMA Region X  
Region X Service Center - STARR  
Richard Boothby - Fire Code Official - MatSu Borough  
Sally Russell Cox - Alaska Risk MAP Coordinator - State of Alaska  
Sandra Garley - City Planner/Community Development Director - City of Palmer  
Scott Nelsen - Emergency Management Specialist II - State of Alaska  
Sonya Dukes - City Clerk - City of Houston  
Steve Colligan - Councilman - MatSu Borough  
Steve Masterman - State Geologist/Director - State of Alaska  
Tamra Biasco - Risk Analysis Branch Chief - FEMA Region X RAB  
Taunnie Boothby - Planner - MatSu Borough  
Ted Perkins - Regional Engineer - FEMA Region X RAB  
Tina Crawford - City Planner - City of Wasilla  
Troy Sova - STARR  
Vern Halter - Mayor - MatSu Borough  
Vickie Lee Fenster - Permit Technician/Deputy Floodplain Administrator - MatSu Borough

Virgie Thompson - Mayor - City of Houston

Jimmy C. Smith - Alaska State NFIP Coordinator - State of Alaska