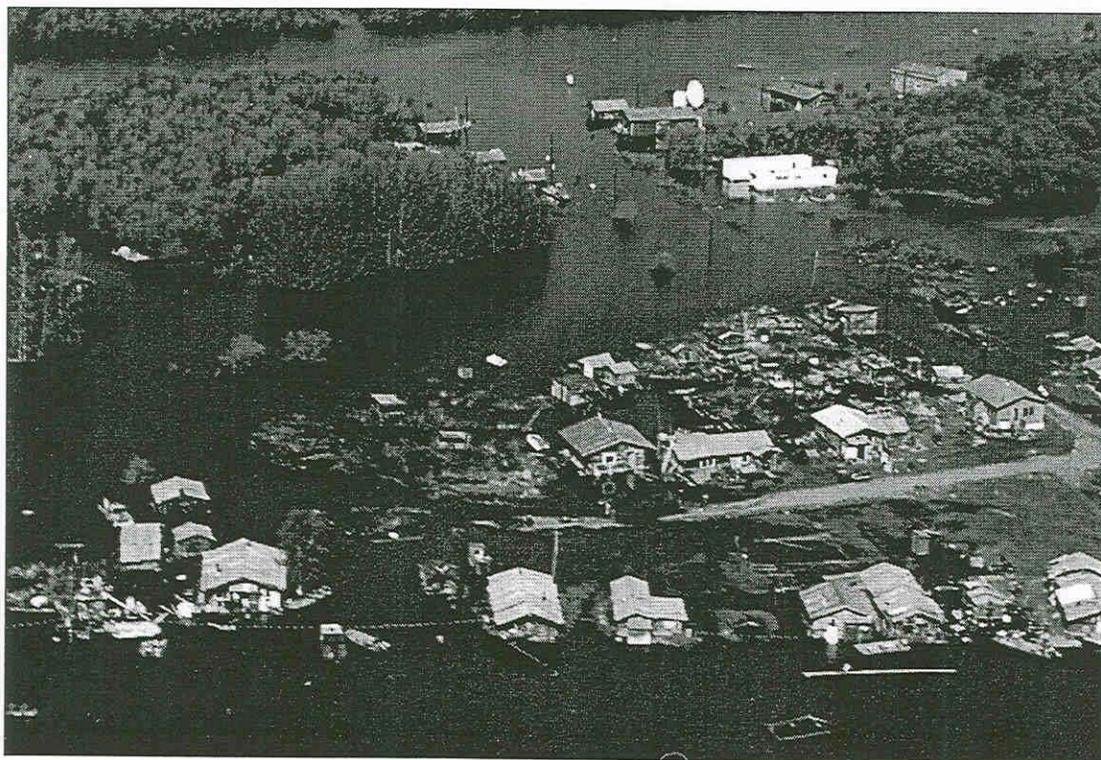


State of Alaska
Statewide Flood Hazard
Map
Modernization Plan



Prepared by:

Department of Community and Economic Development
Division of Community Advocacy

State Map Modernization Goals:

- Reduce the average age of flood maps in the nation from 12 years to 6 years or less;
- Reduce the average age of Alaska's flood maps from **17 years** to 6 years or less;;
- Produce digital flood hazard maps with up-to-date flood hazard data for the 15-percent highest priority areas in the state; and
- Develop flood hazard maps for one-half of the unmapped, floodprone communities in Alaska and the nation.

Facts:

- Over 98% of Alaska's regulatory maps used by communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) are over 12 years old;
- 67% are over 17 years old.
- Hydrology for the **NFIP** maps is **predominantly** based on 1974 **data** or earlier.
- Flood disaster losses and State and Federal costs for flood related disaster relief continue to climb, primarily in rural Alaska where the flood maps in communities not participating in the NFIP are generally over 30 years old.

In rural Alaska:

- New IAID/Community maps and continuing to establish High Water Marks of Record are tools that have begun to guide safer construction.
- IAID Community Mapping is the cornerstone of the State's Plan for Modernizing the Flood Maps for communities < 3500
- DCA is now a CTP

Background and Purpose of Flood Map Modernization Plan

- This plan was prepared to incorporate Alaska's flood hazard mapping needs into the development of a comprehensive national strategy for modernizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) inventory of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).
- The plan identifies mapping priorities for the State of Alaska and outlines an approach for addressing these mapping needs.
- The older maps reflect outdated flood hazard information that limits their utility for insurance and floodplain management purposes.

- Many of the FIRMs were prepared using 50-foot contour topography, manual cartographic techniques, with minimal hydrologic data and hydraulic analysis.
- Regulatory flood maps for many of Alaska's incorporated cities and boroughs have not been produced. Federal flood insurance is not available in these areas.

Authority for Planning, Platting, and Land Use Regulation

The Unorganized Borough is not a municipal corporation. In other words, the State has **no authority to mandate planning, platting and land use regulation in second class cities or in unincorporated communities in the unorganized borough.** This means that second class cities in the unorganized borough have the *option*, not the duty, to address development in the floodplain. If the community is unincorporated, land use regulation is voluntary and there is no authority to implement any compliance with the NFIP standards.

Estimated Costs to Complete Proposed Mapping Activities

- President's budget for FY 03 (10/1 /02-9/30/03) was approved with **\$200 million** (\$351 million requested) for initiating FEMA's national Map Modernization Program.
- FY04 **\$150 million** was approved.
- The activities to be performed by the State are estimated to cost approximately \$3 million.

STATE BUSINESS PLAN for Flood Map Modernization

Assigned at the end of last FY for completion in 6 months (next wk)
Purpose of the Business Plan is two-fold:

- 1. Identify and document the scope and level of effort needed to adequately map all flood hazard areas that have been, or could be developed, and to maintain the maps in the future.**
- 2. Define what management or oversight roles and responsibilities the State (so far DCA) and local governments are willing to assume to improve and maintain flood maps, and estimate the resources required to carry out the functions.**
 - **Describe total number of stream & coastline miles that have been mapped, as well as the miles that still need to be mapped.**
(411,090)
 - **With floodway miles, and without floodway**
 - **Identify population at risk**

Develop a Five Year State Floodplain Management Strategy –(Dec. 03)

- Division was tasked by FEMA to develop a 5-year comprehensive floodplain management plan that conveys a vision and direction for Alaska's floodplain management program and describes the steps and activities necessary to accomplish the vision from FFY 2005 through FFY 2009.
- The Strategic Plan should include measurable goals that will achieve greater floodplain management compliance.
- shortcomings must be **understood and described**

GAO Report: Alaska Native Villages Most are Affected by Flooding and Erosion but Few Qualify for Federal Assistance

- 184 out of 213 (86%) affected by flooding and erosion to some extent
- Directed to review 9 villages, 4 were considered in imminent danger and are planning to relocate – Kivalina, Koyukuk, Newtok and Shishmaref

Recommendations to Congress:

- Federal agencies and the Denali Commission to assess the feasibility of alternatives for responding to flooding and erosion
- Direct federal agencies to consider social and environmental factors in their C/B analyses
- Waive the federal cost-sharing requirement for these projects (SJR 25 parrots this message)
- Authorize the “bundling” of funds from various federal agencies

Sen. Murkowski's 2/16 address to Alaska Legislature Legislation is being drafted to form a joint State/Federal Commission.