

**NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS
ANNUAL CONFERENCE – ATLANTIC BEACH, NC
September 10, 2002**

**NORTH CAROLINA
COOPERATING TECHNICAL STATE
FLOOD MAPPING PROGRAM**

NC FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2003 BUDGET

The State of North Carolina's Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 budget, presently being worked on is severely challenged. The needs of the State far exceed the available funds at this time. The **North Carolina Association of Floodplain Managers (NCAFPM)** recognizes the seriousness of this situation, and empathizes with our lawmakers as they have to make the decisions of what should be funded and what will have to wait. We would like to make our case for the continued funding of the NC Cooperating Technical State (CTS) Flood Mapping Program, as one of the highest priorities for the present and future residents of our great state.

WHY NORTH CAROLINA UNDERTOOK THE PROJECT

- North Carolina faces extreme hazards and consequences from hurricanes and flooding. Between 1989 and 1999, there were 14 federally declared disasters in North Carolina.
- Hurricane Floyd revealed serious flood hazard data and mapping limitations. This hurricane destroyed 4,117 uninsured and underinsured homes, and damages totaled \$3.5 billion.
- Approximately 55% of North Carolina FIRMS are at least 10 years old.
- At least 75% of North Carolina FIRMS are at least 5 years old.
- Some Communities have never received detailed mapping, and have preliminary maps to this day.
- The State's vulnerability to hurricanes and flooding make it crucial that communities and property owners have accurate, up-to-date information about the flood risk.
- FEMA's mapping budget is finite; on average, North Carolina receives only one updated flood study for one county per year. We have one hundred counties.
- A majority of counties and communities have indicated that they do not have the resources to take on this responsibility.

WHERE IS THE PROGRAM PRESENTLY

- North Carolina invested \$26.24 million toward establishing the program and for Phase I activities.
- The estimated total cost for the State to re-map all of North Carolina is \$72.0 million.
- The State's budget for Fiscal Year 2002 did not include funding for Phase II or Phase III of the program. Furthermore, because of funding constraints, FIRM production in the Cape Fear basin in Phase I is being delayed.

PROGRAM NEEDS

- This project is critical in reducing future flood losses throughout the State. It is estimated that citizens incur approximately \$57 million in additional flood losses during each year the State is without new flood maps.
- The delay of the finalization of the Cape Fear basin (the basin with the largest population in the state) has put many communities in jeopardy. Furthermore, those communities with jurisdiction in both the Neuse and Cape Fear basins will be unable to officially adopt the Neuse mapping until the Cape Fear is completed.

WITH THIS IN MIND, SUPPORT IS NEEDED TOWARD:

- Ensuring that any remaining Hurricane Floyd monies for redevelopment and reconstruction be dedicated to the remapping effort.
- Restore state funding to the remapping project, such that all phases may be completed in the near future. It is particularly important that the state restore this funding, so that we are in a position to leverage this money with federal matching funds.
- Passage of the \$350 million proposed in the President's Budget for FEMA's
- Map Modernization Plan; and
- Continued funding towards statewide implementation of the flood warning system.

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Association recognizes that North Carolina and FEMA has made great strides in the North Carolina Cooperating Technical State Flood Mapping Program over the last two years, and

WHEREAS, accurate, up to date flood mapping has proven to be an invaluable part of local and state floodplain management programs; and

WHEREAS, accurate, up to date flood maps reduce flood losses and federal expenditures for disaster assistance, flood insurance claims and flood control projects; and

WHEREAS, the single most important tool for North Carolina communities and property owners to make sound siting and design decisions for reconstruction, retrofitting and new construction is current accurate mapping; and

WHEREAS, this remapping program is crucial to the effort to mitigate against future flood losses, as well as to inform the public who is at risk for flooding;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the North Carolina Association of Floodplain Managers, Inc. (Association) that:

1. The Association supports a request for increased funding to continue with the completion of Phases I, II and III of the North Carolina Cooperating Technical State Flood Mapping Program.
2. The Association supports the immediate transfer of any remaining Hurricane Floyd monies for redevelopment and reconstruction to the North Carolina Cooperating Technical State Flood Mapping Program, and in particular to the Cape Fear remapping effort.
3. The Association supports the continued funding and eventual implementation of the Flood Warning System.

ADOPTED THIS THE 10TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2002.

Joseph B. Chapman
Secretary

William R. Tingle
Chairman