

## The Public is Invited to Contribute to the next TMAC Meeting on September 25-26, 2018

The Technical Mapping Advisory Council (TMAC) for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will meet at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) auditorium in Reston, Virginia, on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 25 and 26, 2018. This meeting is open to the public.

The TMAC is a federal advisory committee established to review and make recommendations to FEMA on matters related to the National Flood Insurance Program's national flood mapping program. The TMAC is authorized under the *Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012* (BW-12) and the *Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014* (HFIAA). Each year, the council produces and submits an annual report to the FEMA Administrator with its insights or recommendations on topics defined by legislation or included in FEMA's tasking memo for the year. To view past TMAC reports or read the summaries and agendas of previous TMAC meetings, visit the TMAC's website, [www.fema.gov/tmac](http://www.fema.gov/tmac).

In 2018, FEMA tasked the TMAC to address three topics of key importance as FEMA considers ways to improve the way flood data is generated and delivered, redesigns flood risk rating for insurance coverage, and evolves its products and services to best meet customer needs. FEMA asked the TMAC to explore and provide insight on the following topics:

- Examine how FEMA's national flood mapping program may take steps to increase flood insurance coverage nationally.
- Explore ways to communicate the areas of uncertainty and precision associated with the data models used for FEMA studies and the resulting Special Flood Hazard Areas, without undermining the communication of flood risk and the perceived credibility of FEMA's information.
- Explore the criteria FEMA should consider in prioritizing unmapped areas, considering the need to create and maintain credible data for more populous areas while inspiring good mitigation practices nationally.

During the September meeting, the TMAC is expected to vote on the recommendations to be included in the TMAC 2018 Annual Report and to adopt the first draft of the 2018 report. To facilitate participation in this meeting, the council invites the public to provide written comments on the issues listed above, which are being considered. A summary of the TMAC's 2018 report will be posted at [www.fema.gov/tmac](http://www.fema.gov/tmac) by September 15, 2018. Interested individuals may review the concepts and submit comments to the public docket, FEMA-2014-0022 by September 21, or register to attend and deliver comments in person by emailing [FEMA-TMAC@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-TMAC@fema.dhs.gov) by September 19, 2018, no later than 11:00 p.m. EDT. Comments made by members of the public during the meeting must be limited to 3 minutes or less. The public meeting will be held in on September 25 and 26 in the auditorium at the USGS facility at 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20192. To register to attend or for more information, email [FEMA-TMAC@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-TMAC@fema.dhs.gov).

As mandated in BW-12 and governed by the requirements in the *Federal Advisory Committee Act*, the TMAC is composed of representatives from federal, state, local and private sector organizations. The 20 council members are appointed based on their demonstrated knowledge and competence in surveying, cartography, remote sensing, geographic information systems, or the technical aspects of preparing and using Flood Insurance Rate Maps. For additional information on upcoming TMAC meetings, visit the Federal Register at <https://www.federalregister.gov/> and search for TMAC.