



FEMA

September 24, 2009

Dear Stakeholder:

I am pleased to announce the launch of the development of a National Disaster Recovery Framework. The Northridge Earthquake, Hurricanes Andrew and Katrina, and the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, as well as other disasters, provided valuable lessons in how communities can renew and rebuild, but also identified critical challenges that we must address as a Nation to ensure that the necessary resources and capabilities are in place. Our goal is to create a comprehensive coordinating structure that will enhance our ability to work together and effectively deliver recovery assistance. This is a major undertaking, the success of which will hinge on the active engagement of our stakeholders nationwide. Though the issues we face together may be national in scope, ultimately, disaster recovery happens because of the hard work and dedication of organizations like yours in communities across the country.

Our critical first step is to invite our customers and partners to participate and provide input. During the months of October and November, FEMA will conduct a comprehensive stakeholder dialogue regarding the nation's approach to managing disaster recovery. FEMA's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs will be in touch to coordinate with you as the dialogue begins. Our website, www.fema.gov, also will have details and schedule information about this process.

I have asked Elizabeth A. Zimmerman, Assistant Administrator of the Disaster Assistance Directorate, to lead this effort, enabling us together to build, sustain, and improve the recovery component of our mission to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. As the former Assistant Director of Recovery for the State of Arizona, she brings a wealth of recovery expertise and experience to FEMA. We look forward to hearing from your membership throughout this process. Please contact Mr. Curtis Carleton at curtis.carleton@dhs.gov if you have any questions about this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Craig Fugate". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

W. Craig Fugate
Administrator