



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce,  
Community, and Economic  
Development

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS  
Anchorage Office

550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1640  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Main: 907.269.4581  
Fax: 907.269.453

January 19, 2023

Mayor John K. Handeland  
City of Nome  
PO Box 281  
102 Division St.  
Nome, AK 99762

Re: National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Assistance Contact (CAC)

I accepted the invitation to an in-person meeting with city officials and visited Nome on October 20 and 21, 2022, to discuss the City of Nome's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), post disaster mitigation and compliance efforts with the NFIP. I conducted a substantial damage (SD) training along with a review of permitting procedures. This meeting, called a Community Assistance Contact (CAC), was conducted with Cheryl Thompson, the Floodplain Administrator, and Cliff McHenry, the Building Inspector.

The primary purpose of this CAC was to offer technical advice after the storm event in September 2022 that affected the community. The technical advice was regarding substantial damage and post-storm mitigation, along with permitting within the regulated floodplain. The enforcement of building and floodplain development regulations qualify the community to apply for federal grants or loans for development within flood hazard areas and provides businesses, renters, and homeowners the ability to purchase flood insurance for protection against much of the devastating financial loss resulting from flood disasters.

This visit was also intended to provide the most current information on NFIP regulations, and to give your staff an opportunity to discuss any issues concerning the floodplain management program and the Community Rating System (CRS) that your community participates in. I had been in frequent contact with both Cheryl and Cliff before and after the storm, and both invited me to the community to stay in

compliance with the NFIP ensuring that they maintain good practices in the regulation of the program to qualify for any post-storm grant funds that may be available.

This letter summarizes findings during this Community Assistance Visit (CAC) with the recommendations for the City of Nome.

1. During our meeting additional training was requested specific to coastal erosion and rural Alaskan development issues. I invited the staff members to attend the L0273 Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP that is being conducted February 27 through March 2, 2023, in Anchorage, AK. The State obtained grant funds to sponsor the travel cost of the training to include lodging and reimbursement for airfare for one person in each community. Due to the post-storm floodplain development, I extended the offer to sponsor both staff members to attend this training because it is vital to the success of this program and continued good standing with FEMA for the City of Nome.
2. The City's ordinance was reviewed for compliance with the minimum standards of the 44 CFR 60.3 and no deficiencies were found at this time. Cheryl Thompson has been in the Floodplain Administrator since 2017. Cliff McHenry conducts the fieldwork inspections and assists in the permit application process.
3. We discussed previous questions and compliance issues that were listed in past CAVs and CACs with the community and resolutions that have been implemented:
  - The City of Nome had two development permits, one for building and one for floodplain, and it was recommended that the city evaluate the permit process and only have one permit application to avoid inadvertently missing completing a floodplain review. This has been resolved. Currently, there is one permit application for all development which is easily accessed in an online filing system and permanently stored digitally.
  - In the past there was no written procedure and permit tracking mechanism. This has been resolved with the digital application process.
  - Field tours had previously identified hazardous development requiring documentation to show compliance or enforcement action taken to bring structures into compliance with the city's floodplain development regulations. Most violations previously noted have been removed except for a fuel tank at 311 East Front Street.
  - Cliff McHenry started enforcement action to bring the fuel tank at 311 East Front Street into compliance with the city's development regulations sending written instruction for owner to:
    - a. Anchorage: All structures and fuel tanks are required to be anchored as per the guidelines stated at the website [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).
    - b. The unused double 55-gallon drum fuel tanks must be removed from the property and be disposed of properly.
    - c. Any debris or non-functional vehicles should be removed from the property.

In summary, the City of Nome is compliant with the agreement made with FEMA to participate in the NFIP and continues to try to improve the program by participating in CRS. The City of Nome's staff continues to seek out continued education and information to ensure that the program is being implemented within the community. The City's Building Inspector took the initiative to ensure the properties on Front Street were prepared for the predicted storm event by asking that they remove or secure any fuel tanks or items around on their property that could potentially become floating debris.

I am committed to working with the City of Nome to ensure its continued participation in the NFIP and assisting your efforts to provide the benefits of a discount on flood insurance to members of your community by participating in the Community Rating Systems (CRS). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (907) 269-7904, [harmony.curtis@alaska.gov](mailto:harmony.curtis@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HJC', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Harmony J. Curtis, CFM  
Local Government Specialist 4,  
State of Alaska NFIP Coordinator

cc: Glenn Steckman, City Manager  
Cliff McHenry, Building Inspector, City of Nome  
Cheryl Thompson, Executive Assistant, City of Nome  
Robert Pearson, State and Federal Programs Manager, State of AK, DCCED, DCRA  
Roxanne Reale-Pilkenton, Acting for K. Wood-McGuiness, CAP Coordinator, FEMA Region 10  
Mitch Paine, Floodplain Management Specialist, FEMA Region 10