



**Municipality of Anchorage
Geotechnical Advisory Commission**

A G E N D A

**Tuesday, April 23, 2024
12:00 Noon – 1:30 p.m.**

**Regular Meeting
(Hybrid format)**

In-Person Physical Location

Planning Conference Room 170
Planning and Development Center
4700 Elmore Road
Anchorage, Alaska

or

via Microsoft Teams

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#):
Meeting ID: 238 552 937 650, Passcode: rSL6pw

Or call in (audio only): +1 907-519-0237

Conference ID: 309 649 142#

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - A. Establishment of Quorum
 - B. Disclosures
- II. MEETING SUMMARIES
 - A. March 26, 2024
- III. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Scope of Potential Project for Seismic Hazard Analysis and Mapping
 - B. Discussion: 2023 50-State National Seismic Hazard Model
 - C. Discussion: AMC 23.85.R401.4 Soil Tests – Existing Amendment Regarding Seismic Hazard Zones 4 and 5. Daniel King may bring data for discussion.
 - D. Discussion of Last Month’s HOME Presentation
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Discussion: Support to NOAA’s National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program
- V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (3-minute limit)
- VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - A. Communications Committee
 - B. Hazard Mitigation Committee
 - C. Seismic Hazard Committee
- VII. OTHER BUSINESS
- VIII. STAFF REPORTS
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting – May 28, 2024



Municipality of Anchorage
Geotechnical Advisory Commission

Tuesday, March 26, 2024
12:00 Noon – 1:15 p.m.

Regular Meeting
(Hybrid format)

Planning Conference Room 170
4700 Elmore Road

Table with 3 columns: Commissioners, Staff, and Guests. Lists names and roles of participants for the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Establishment of Quorum
B. Disclosures

II. MINUTES

- A. February 27, 2024: Commissioner Nutter moved to approve; Commissioner Hemstreet seconded. Unanimous approval with one edit (replace Alaska with American on page 2), identified by Chair Thornley.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Scope of Potential Project for Seismic Hazard Analysis and Mapping
B. Discussion: 2023 50-State National Seismic Hazard Model

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion: AMC 23.85.R401.4 Soil Tests – Existing Amendment Regarding Seismic Hazard Zones 4 and 5. Discussed how to regulate structures, including by square footage or overall lot coverage. Larger projects might require a bigger study.
B. Discussion of the H.O.M.E. Initiative. Assembly members Volland, Zaletel, Brawley, and Allie Hartman, Special Assistant to the Assembly, and Jonathan Lang Aide to Assembly Member Zaletel. Discussion of ways of regulating slope, historic methods for assessing slope. Tim Huntting reported on seismic hazard mapping, and how that will be complete in several years.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (*none*)

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Communications Committee.** Report by Commissioner Nutter.
- B. Hazard Mitigation Committee.** No Report
- C. Seismic Hazard Committee.** Discussion of June timeframe for USGS coming up to do a presentation on the Alaska update, likely through the ERI chapter. Seismological Society of America, April 29th-May 3rd.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

- IX. ADJOURNMENT.** Keri Nutter moved to adjourn; Cody Kreitel seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting – April 23, 2024

Mckenna-Foster, Daniel R.

From: Loach, Amanda
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 12:09 PM
To: Mckenna-Foster, Daniel R.
Cc: Davis, Tom G.; Yelle, Ryan J; Welch, Drielle; Preis, Andrew B.; MacKenzie, Sean C.
Subject: FW: Important Time Sensitive: Support for Tsunami Program
Attachments: NOAA_FY25_Congressional_Justification.pdf; Support_tsunami_program.docx

Importance: High

Hi Daniel! (I'm cc a couple other too just in case you have the week out of office). It has been brought to my attention that there is quite a serious and urgent(not emergent, but urgent for government) issue that has surfaced regarding the federal funding for the tsunami program. With Anchorage just becoming involved in Tsunami risk as of 2023 I think this is an excellent opportunity for the Geotechnical Advisory group to take action to help advocate for continuing this program to protect our community. Attached and below is all the information for the commission to dash off a letter of support for continuing the program. What do you think? I plan to be at tomorrow's meeting....

Amanda Loach

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 Emergency Operations Center
 Municipality of Anchorage
 1305 E Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501
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 C: (907) 250-4953
 OEM: Amanda.loach@anchorageak.gov

From: Picasso, Anthony A (MVA)
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 2:30 PM
To: Elena Suleimani <ensuleimani@alaska.edu>; Salisbury, Barrett (DNR) <barrett.salisbury@alaska.gov>; Schultz, Benjamin E (MVA) <ben.schultz@alaska.gov>; Hildreth, Richard K (MVA) <richard.hildreth@alaska.gov>
Cc: Loach, Amanda; Brauneis (MVA sponsored) <bobbi.brauneis.arc@alaska.gov>; vdemmert@ytttribe.org; cpetersen@ytttribe.org; gwen@chugachmiut.org; cityclerk@cityofklawock.com; mbaker@stpaulak.com; pazavadil@stpaulak.com; Jon Erickson <manager@yakutatak.us>; Kerry Ivory <ouztribe@gmail.com>; mayor.jackson@ouzunkie.city; Emily Deach <e.deach@skagway.org>; harborcitycouncil@gmail.com; Brandon Moonin <Brandon@tatitlekira.com>; Andre Achee <policechief@whittieralaska.gov>; Preis, Andrew B. <andrew.preis@anchorageak.gov>; Casey Cook <casey.cook@matsugov.us>; nvo.clerk@gmail.com; Mark Kirko <mkirko@ci.homer.ak.us>; Putney, Tim <tputney@city.kodiak.ak.us>; Albert Smith <ASmith@metlakatla.com>; firechief@whittieralaska.gov; firehall@ci.homer.ak.us; Heather Brannon <emc@cityofcordova.net>; haidacable@aol.com; hydaburgcityclerk@gmail.com; Rick Hines <rickh@city.ketchikan.ak.us>
Subject: Important Time Sensitive: Support for Tsunami Program

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hey everyone,

As many of you know, I've had the privilege of working closely with all of you on various Tsunami-related programs for our community. Right now, I'm reaching out for one last effort to secure support from communities that have and will benefit from the National Tsunami Hazard

Mitigation Program. It's no secret that the majority of our Tsunami Mitigation efforts stem from this program. It's clear how much this program contributes to the state of Alaska.

Everything from sirens and evacuation plans to hazard maps, education, outreach, and even the Tsunami Operations Workshop owes its existence to this crucial initiative. Without this program, all these vital components could be eliminated. That's why I'm reaching out today—to rally support and ensure that this invaluable program continues to safeguard our communities from the ever-present threat of tsunamis.

I've been closely collaborating with the Alaska Earthquake Center and Alaska DGGS, and it's thanks to their diligence that we caught wind of the alarming verbiage in NOAA's 25 proposal to Congress to terminate the program. Without their efforts, this crucial information could have slipped under everyone's radar. It's worth noting that the document released was a hefty 1100 pages and buried within page 565 was the single paragraph mentioning the program's elimination. The lack of transparency in how this information was disseminated was a significant disappointment for all states involved – Alaska really has some great partners and I'm very happy that it was our group that sound the alarm to this matter. It shows how much we care about our communities and work

Now what do we do?

At the state level, we've taken swift action by drafting and sending a letter to Congress and NOAA expressing our strong opposition to the program's termination. This letter carries the support of multiple states, including Washington, California, Hawaii, American Samoa, Oregon, CNMO Homeland Security, Guam, and the Emergency Management and Administrations Bureau.

It's imperative that we continue to stand united in our efforts to protect our communities from the devastating impacts of tsunamis. Your continued support in this critical endeavor is invaluable. Attached is a drafted letter outlining how you can help in our fight to preserve the program and benefit our communities. At the end of the day, this will profoundly affect the lives of the places we call home.

Please consider this as a recommendation on how you can assist us on the local level. Given the significant impact this issue has on Alaska, it's important for us to be transparent with you, as you are the community we serve.

Per Alaska Earthquake Center.

In short, the program that has supported nearly all of the tsunami mapping, education, and community engagement for the past 20 years has been slated for termination by NOAA. The program has been responsible for every product [on this page](#) and nearly all community-level tsunami activities in Alaska, including all our work done for Ouzinkie.

[NOAA's FY25 Budget Justification](#) includes the following on page NWS-45 (pdf page 565):
Terminate Tsunami Grant Program (-\$6,000, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – *This program change is requested to support other NOAA and Administration priorities. This will terminate the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP) grant funding to state and territory education and awareness; inundation and evacuation map development; and state and territory support for the*

TsunamiReady Program. This proposal would eliminate the grants that support local infrastructure for critical response.

I attach a template letter in support of the tsunami program, and the NOAA FY25 budget proposal, which is referenced in the letter.

Please modify the support letter the way you find most appropriate and email me with any questions.

We really appreciate your help!!

Best,
Elena.

Anthony A. Picasso, MSDM
Geohazard Mitigation Coordinator
Earthquake – Tsunami – Volcano Program Manager
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA)
Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHS&EM)
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[\(1\) Anthony A. Picasso, MSDM | LinkedIn](#)

**Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research, and Facilities
PROGRAM DECREASE FOR 2024
(Dollar amounts in thousands)**

| | | 2025 Base | | 2025 Estimate | | Decrease from 2025 Base | |
|---------------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|----------------------------|---------|
| | | Personnel | Amount | Personnel | Amount | Personnel | Amount |
| Analyze, Forecast, & Support | Pos/BA | 2,846 | 603,491 | 2,846 | 597,491 | 0 | (6,000) |
| | FTE/OBL | 2,846 | 603,491 | 2,846 | 597,491 | 0 | (6,000) |

Terminate Tsunami Grant Program (-\$6,000, 0 FTE/ 0 Positions) – This program change is requested to support other NOAA and Administration priorities. This will terminate the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP) grant funding to state and territory education and awareness; inundation and evacuation map development; and state and territory support for the TsunamiReady® Program. This proposal would eliminate the grants that support local infrastructure for critical response. NOAA will continue to support NTHMP member states and territories through IDSS and tsunami outreach and education efforts. This includes continuing to advance the NWS TsunamiReady® recognition program within tsunami-prone communities and continuing to provide tsunami IDSS to local emergency managers and decision makers.

To: Senator Dan Sullivan (or Senator Lisa Murkowski, or Representative Mary Sattler Peltola)
From: Community of (insert your community here)
Re: proposed FY25 termination of NOAA's National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program
Date: (insert date)

The Honorable Senator Dan Sullivan,

We in (community) are shocked to discover that NOAA's FY25 Budget Justification (page 565, or NWS-45) proposes to terminate the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP). The NTHMP grant is Alaska's only source of funding for tsunami mitigation efforts, including development of tsunami hazard and evacuation maps, community education and preparedness, and the *TsunamiReady* program.

(Community name) was hit by the tsunami during the Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964, and at the time, residents were not aware that strong earthquake shaking would immediately result in an even deadlier disaster. Tsunami awareness in Alaska and the western United States exists because of the consistent and deliberate work of scientists and emergency managers that have been funded by the NTHMP for the past 25 years.

The Alaska Tsunami Team produced tsunami inundation maps for (Community name), visited us to educate the public and school students about our local tsunami hazard, and (please add other products and activities: **helped** us develop tsunami evacuation brochures for our residents and visitors; **developed/improved** our tsunami siren infrastructure; **installed** evacuation route signs in our low-lying areas, etc.) In addition to keeping our residents safe, we rely on these products to spread awareness to the visitors from inside and outside of Alaska who may not consider tsunami risk when they plan their visit.

By terminating the NTHMP, NOAA is removing the tools to address live safety issues in coastal Alaska communities. The NTHMP is effective at informing and protecting the public, especially during local-source tsunami events where public education, preparedness, and response activities mean the difference between life and death. Tsunami awareness must be taught to each new generation for continuity of awareness. Terminating or reducing the scope of the NTHMP will put current and future Alaska residents and visitors at risk of preventable death.

Respectfully,

(Your Name)
(Your Position)