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FEMA MITIGATION FRAMEWORK LEADERSHIP GROUP (MitFLG) Quarter 1 2023 Meeting



The FEMA Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG) held its first 2023 Quarterly meeting on February 9, 2023 at the FEMA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Ms. Lisa Tuato’o, Director of the Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management (ODAPM) sits on the MitFLG as a State Local Tribal Territorial (SLTT) member and attended the meeting in person. The meeting objective was to “discuss mitigation and resilience opportunities identified by the White House, including priorities from the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission.” More than 60 federal, SLTT and other unique participants actively engaged in this four (4) hour meeting to include in person and virtual attendance. An opportunity was

afforded to MitFLG members to share about their mitigation and resilience-focused initiatives and priorities for 2023.

One of the important topics of discussion is building codes. Director Lisa Tuato'o provided an update that ODAPM applied for funds to upgrade the building codes and received money from the FEMA. The procurement process has been completed and a contractor has been selected to conduct this project. The building survey schedule of values of government facilities project is ongoing and almost completed. The last time the building survey was conducted in American Samoa was in 2004 and ODAPM took the lead in 2021, applied for federal money and was successfully awarded funds by the U.S. Department of Interior Office of Insular Areas Technical Assistance Program for this project.

Since last quarterly meeting in October 2022, the Building Codes Task Force submitted the first National Initiative to Advance Building Codes (NIABC) Progress Report to the White House in December 2022. The report provides a summary of the task force's accomplishments thus far, outlines the BCTF subgroups and provides an overview of federal agency implementation plans.

After presentations from MitFLG Liaison to the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission, the Director of Recovery and Mitigation NSC and Senior Director for Resilience CEQ both spoke on White House Priorities and Alignment. The MitFLG also heard from SLTT Representatives of WMATA and New Mexico Santa Clara Pueblo Tribe on their mitigation projects. Director Tuato'o shared the great news of the approval of the American Samoa Watershed Plan and the plan is available on their office website at www.odapm.as.gov. She credits the interagency collaboration of local and federal partners for this milestone reached and accomplishment. She also extended an invitation to all MitFLG members to attend the upcoming 2nd Amerika Samoa Annual Disaster Resilience Summit to be held in American Samoa in September 2023. In person meetings yield more advantages for the Territory by way of networking and utilizing the contributions of available resources for the overall good of the people of American Samoa.







