



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

JUL 07 2016

Dr. Laurie A. Johnson, PhD, AICP
Chair
Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction
National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program
23 Portola Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94903

Re: NEHRP-ACEHR 2016 Interim Report

Dear Dr. Johnson:

Thank you for your May 19, 2016, interim letter report regarding the effectiveness of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). I agree with your observation that while NEHRP has accomplished much in its history, many Americans remain at risk from the impacts of potential damaging earthquakes. I recognize the importance of NEHRP continuing its work to mitigate that risk.

The four key points you raised in your letter – strategic leadership of NEHRP by the Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC), analysis of gaps in the Nation's earthquake resilience, quality of interagency coordination within NEHRP, and improved implementation of advances in NEHRP research – are all very significant and deserve thorough consideration.

This interim report comes essentially mid-way between the 2015 biennial report of the Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction (ACEHR) and the planned 2017 biennial report of the ACEHR. We appreciate both the more detailed observations made in 2015 and this higher-level interim report. We also understand and appreciate the time and hard work that you and other members of the ACEHR continue to contribute.

For your information, we are currently working to schedule a meeting of the NEHRP ICC, at which we plan to discuss collectively the issues you have raised.

We will inform you when we have scheduled this meeting.

Best Regards,

Willie E. May, PhD.
Director
National Institute of Standards and Technology

NIST