



Municipality of Anchorage
Geotechnical Advisory Commission

A G E N D A

Tuesday, May 28, 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

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. April 23, 2024
- B. April 26, 2024, Special Meeting

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Scope of Potential Project for Seismic Hazard Analysis and Mapping
- B. Discussion: AMC 23.85.R401.4 Soil Tests – Existing Amendment Regarding Seismic Hazard Zones 4 and 5 (*Daniel King*)
- C. Discussion: March’s HOME Initiative Presentation

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion: Transit Center Relocation (*Public Transportation and Kinney Engineering*)
- B. Discussion: Letter of Support for Strong Motion Instrumentation at Port of Alaska, Terminal 1
- C. Discussion: Letter in Support of a Statewide, Enforceable Building Code

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (3-minute limit)

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Communications Committee
- B. Hazard Mitigation Committee
- C. Seismic Hazard Committee: USGS and EERI Workshop, June 26, 2024

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Report on Letter of Support for NOAA’s National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting – June 25, 2024



Municipality of Anchorage
Geotechnical Advisory Commission

ACTION SUMMARY

**Tuesday, April 23, 2024
12:00 Noon – 12:58 p.m.**

**Regular Meeting
(Hybrid format)
Planning Conference Room 170
4700 Elmore Road**

Commissioners	Staff	Guests
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyle Brennan • Steven Halcomb, Vice Chair • Dave Hemstreet • Cody Kreitel • Keri Nutter • Amy Steiner • John Thornley, Chair • Dennis Berry (Absent) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Mckenna-Foster, Long-Range Planning • Daniel King, Plan Review Engineer, Development Services • Tim Huntting, Geotechnical Lab Manager, PME • Wayne Bolen, Plan Review Engineer, Development Services • Susan Perry, Long-Range Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colin Maynard, Alaska Seismic Hazard Safety Commission

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Establishment of Quorum**
- B. Disclosures**

II. MEETING SUMMARIES/MINUTES

- A. March 26, 2024 Meeting Summary:**
Commissioner Brennan moved to approve; **Commissioner Hemstreet** seconded. Approved with minor edits: Amy Steiner excused from March meeting; and under item VI.C., EERI corrected.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Scope of Potential Project for Seismic Hazard Analysis and Mapping.**
Update from **Tim Huntting**.
- B. Discussion: 2023 50-State National Seismic Hazard Model.**
Chair Thornley talked about EERI workshop in June.
- C. Discussion: AMC 23.85.R401.4 Soil Tests.**
Wayne Bolen mentioned that some of this might depend on an existing amendment and may not change before the next code cycle. Average house is around 2,000 SF (but this includes finished area, more than footprint); more data forthcoming.

- D. **Discussion of March's Meeting with HOME Initiative Presentation.**
Commissioners indicated they had not been able to find the document.
Discussion of the role of the GAC and looking at aesthetics versus slope risk.
This should return to next month's meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Discussion: Support to NOAA's National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP).**
Overview from **Amanda Loach**, MOA Director of Office of Emergency Management. **Commissioner Brennan** moved to prepare a letter. **Commissioner Steiner** seconded. Discussion. Agreement to have a special meeting on 4/30/2024 at 12 noon to write a letter and draft a resolution to all representatives and senators. Then ask the Assembly to forward the resolution as well. Unanimous agreement.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Colin Maynard introduced himself. Member of the Alaska Seismic Hazard Safety Commission. Talked about statewide building code. Asked for a letter on the statewide building code.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **Communications Committee:** Will be writing letter for the NOAA tsunami program.
- B. **Hazard Mitigation Committee: Chair Thornley** brought up the issue of the new transit center. Direction to staff to invite the transit center relocation project team to come to the May 2024 meeting.
- C. **Seismic Hazard Committee:** Discussion of upcoming meetings and research papers for publication.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

- IX. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.



Municipality of Anchorage
Geotechnical Advisory Commission

SPECIAL MEETING

ACTION SUMMARY

Friday, April 26, 2024
12:00 Noon – 12:35 p.m.

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Commissioners Present	Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dennis Berry • Kyle Brennan • Cody Kreitel • Keri Nutter • Amy Steiner • John Thornley, Chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Mckenna-Foster, Long-Range Planning • Susan Perry, Long-Range Planning • Amanda Loach, Office of Emergency Management

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Establishment of Quorum

II. SPECIAL ITEM – NOAA’S NATIONAL TSUNAMI HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAM (NTHMP)

A. Discussion of Letter Supporting Maintaining NOAA’S NTHMP.

Commissioner Brennan moved to approve the draft letter provided on the screen. Commissioner Berry seconded. Discussion and minor edits to the letter. **Unanimous approval.**

B. Vote on Resolution. Resolution drafted, discussed, and finalized.
Unanimous approval.

III. ADJOURNMENT. Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

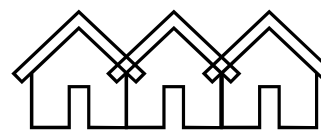
III.B.



Oneplex (101) Footprint	
Minimum	72
Average	1154.3
Maximum	7237



Duplex (102) Footprint	
Minimum	100
Average	1397.3
Maximum	5865



Triplex (103) Footprint	
Minimum	216
Average	1599.3
Maximum	3596



Earthquake Engineering Research Institute

USGS Workshop on the 2023 National Seismic Hazard Model for Alaska

The USGS and EERI will host a one-day, in-person workshop at BP Energy Center, Anchorage, AK on June 26, 2024. The workshop will review details of the 2023 Alaska National Seismic Hazard Model and its implications for hazard, engineering, and risk applications.

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



Assembly Information Memorandum

AIM No. 71-2024

Meeting Date: May 21, 2024

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FROM: MAYOR

SUBJECT: GEOTECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01, SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE NOAA NATIONAL TSUNAMI HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAM (NTHMP).

Attached is a Geotechnical Advisory Commission resolution encouraging the Assembly to support continued funding of the NOAA National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program.

A previous allocation of this funding supported the completion of the "Tsunami Inundation Maps of Anchorage and Upper Cook Inlet, Alaska" (Report of Investigation 2023-2) by Elena N. Suleimani, J. Barrett Salisbury, and Dmitry J. Nicolsky of the Alaska Earthquake Center and the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Prepared by: Daniel Mckenna-Foster, Senior Planner
Planning Department
Approved by: Craig H. Lyon, Planning Director
Concur: Lance Wilber, Community Development Director
Concur: Kent Kohlhase, P.E., Municipal Manager
Respectfully submitted: Dave Bronson, Mayor

Attachment: Geotechnical Advisory Commission Resolution No. 2024-01

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
GEOTECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE NOAA NATIONAL TSUNAMI HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAM (NTHMP).

(GAC Case No. 2024-01)

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Geotechnical Advisory Commission (GAC) is established in the Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) to act in an advisory capacity to the Assembly, the Mayor, boards, commissions, and heads of municipal departments and agencies on geotechnical engineering issues and natural hazards risk mitigation (AMC 21.02.080); and

WHEREAS, the GAC was notified by the MOA Office of Emergency Management and other state partners that funding for the NOAA National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP) was slated to be removed from the federal budget; and

WHEREAS, the NTHMP has been in existence since 1995; and

WHEREAS, through collaboration, coordination, and financial and technical support to partner states, the NTHMP works to reduce the impact of tsunamis on the nation. NTHMP activities affect, either directly or indirectly, everyone in the United States, including coastal residents and visitors, emergency managers, land-use planners, elected officials, educators, government and business organizations, the military, and the tourism and maritime industries; and

WHEREAS, ss directed by Congress, NOAA provides financial assistance to NTHMP partner states. These grants are the primary funding source for projects that further the efforts of the NTHMP and NOAA's NWS TsunamiReady® Program. With this assistance, NTHMP partner states have been able to substantially improve the products and services they provide to coastal communities in a cost-effective way; and

WHEREAS, the recently completed study on tsunami hazards for Upper Cook Inlet, conducted under NTHMP in partnership with Alaska Earthquake Center (AEC), the Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS), and the Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHS&EM) indicated that Anchorage has a higher risk of tsunamis than previously understood; and

WHEREAS, the GAC supports continued funding for this program and the benefits it provides to Anchorage and other coastal communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Geotechnical Advisory Commission:

- A. Encourages the Anchorage Assembly to submit a letter of support for the continued funding of the NTHMP.

- B. Sent a letter to Alaska's Congressional Delegation in support of continued funding for this program, dated April 26, 2024 (attached).

PASSED AND APPROVED unanimously by the Geotechnical Advisory Commission on this 26th day of April 2024.



Craig H. Lyon
Secretary



John D. Thornley, PhD, PE, D.GE
Chair

Attachment: Letter of Support to the Alaska Congressional Delegation

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



Planning Department
Long-Range Planning Division

Phone: (907) 343-7921
Fax: (907) 343-7927

Mayor Dave Bronson

GEOTECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

April 26, 2024

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mary Sattler Peltola
United States House of Representatives
153 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Murkowski and Sullivan and Representative Peltola:

The Municipality of Anchorage's Geotechnical Advisory Commission (GAC) supports maintaining funding for the NOAA National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP).

The current proposal (Exhibit 13, NWS-45, page 565) to terminate funding for grants that support local infrastructure and critical response is concerning, specifically for a community like Anchorage that is located in a seismically active region and only now is undergoing studies to understand the complex risks of tsunamis to the Upper Cook Inlet Region that were until recently thought to be insignificant.

By terminating funding for education and awareness, as well as for inundation mapping and evacuation planning, NOAA is removing essential tools to address life-safety issues in coastal Alaska communities. The NOAA 2024-2029 NTHMP strategic plan¹ identifies hazard and risk assessment as primary goals, recognizing that gaps in inundation mapping and source characterization modeling exist. The NTHMP is effective at informing and protecting the public during local-source tsunami events that provide public education, promote preparedness, and improve response. The proactive nature of the NTHMP and its associated programs is essential to community awareness and preventing the loss of life during tsunamis. Reliance on Impact-Based Decision Support Services is episodic, and warnings after a seismic event across the Pacific Rim are not effective without understanding the full potential impact of an event to a community.

The GAC, formed in 1976, is the oldest government entity in the United States focused solely on mitigating the detrimental effects of natural geologic hazards, in particular earthquakes and associated hazards like tsunamis. The GAC's role includes supporting and advising the Municipality of Anchorage leadership with respect to natural hazards and the use of resilient engineering to protect life-safety in a high hazard region.

The GAC believes the funds supporting the NTHMP should continue, and we press the Alaska Delegation to reject the proposal to terminate the Tsunami Grant Program in NOAA's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Justification.

Sincerely,

John Thornley, Ph.D., P.E.
Chair

¹ <https://vlab.noaa.gov/web/national-tsunami-hazard-mitigation-program/nthmp-strategic-plan-2024-2029>