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EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 013 - 2007

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AN ORDER ADOPTING THE AMERICAN SAMOA REVISION AND UPDATE OF THE TERRITORY MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

Section 1. Authority

This Executive Order is issued under the authority granted to the Governor in Article IV, Sections 6 and 7 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa, and Sections 4.0111 and 26.0105, American Samoa Code Annotated.

Section 2. Preamble

WHEREAS, American Samoa has suffered substantial losses of life and property from natural disasters. The flash floods of 2003, Hurricane Heta in 2004, Hurricane Olaf in 2005, constant heavy rain during hurricane season, and severe landslides have caused considerable human suffering and damage to homes, businesses, government buildings, and infrastructure. Population growth and development continue to increase the vulnerability of American Samoa to natural disasters and unless steps are taken to reduce the risk, disaster losses will continue to increase in the future; and

WHEREAS, American Samoa has taken steps to mitigate the risk of disaster losses. Strides in building codes and standards, land use procedures and proactive outreach mitigation awareness programs have been considerable factors in alleviating the impact of disasters. New constructions face stringent regulations in Special Hazard Flood Areas (SHFA) prone to flooding, tsunamis, high surf, landslides, and other hazards; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress adopted the Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000, commonly known as the 2000 Stafford Act, amended on October 10, 2000. On October 30, 2000, the President signed the bill into law, creating Public Law 106-390. The purpose of the DMA is to amend the Stafford Act, which established a national program for Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM). The PDM provides funds for mitigation planning and mitigation projects to communities. The law also requires local

and Tribal governments to develop and submit mitigation plans to FEMA for approval in order to qualify for future PDM funding. The law also stipulates Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds for planning purposes, and increases HMGP from 7.5% to 20% for states meeting enhanced planning criteria. The Plan outlines the requirement for the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) for flood planning and small projects; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Council was established to assist the Territorial Emergency Management Coordination Office (TEMCO) in the development of the American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Plan. TEMCO was assisted also by the Pacific Disaster Center/East-West Center and the University of Hawaii's Social Research Institute to facilitate development of a draft plan. The Mitigation Council and its sub-committees met several times to review building codes and standards, land use regulations, and infrastructure standards and flooding. The Mitigation Council also met to formulate and identify mitigation projects and prioritize the projects accordingly. The product of this combined effort is contained in the American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Plan matured to the state three year updated plan requirement. This is the updated plan mandated by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

Section 3. Order

The American Samoa Revision and Update of the Territory Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, dated September 27, 2007, is hereby adopted pursuant to ASCA Title 26, Chapter 01, the Stafford Act, and 44 CFR 201.4(c)(6).

Section 4. Effective Date

This Order shall take effect immediately.

Dated: October 25, 2007.


TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO

Distribution: Per standard list.