



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 10 2018

Teresa A. Pardo, PhD., Chair
National Advisory Committee
University at Albany, State University of New York
187 Wolf Road, Suite 301
Albany, NY 12205

Office of
International and
Tribal Affairs

Dear Dr. Pardo:

Thank you for the National Advisory Committee's (NAC) letter of advice of November 15, 2018, reporting on its 51th meeting held in Tucson, Arizona on October 10-11, 2018. We appreciate the NAC's comprehensive advice to the U.S. CEC Council on actors and capacities related to early warning, preparedness, response and resilience to extreme weather and climate events, focusing on drought/flood, wildfires and extreme temperatures.

Enhancing North American capacities for early warning, preparedness, response and resilience to extreme weather and climate events requires engagement by federal, state, tribal, local, academic, non-governmental organizations and private sector actors on a broad set of disciplines. It is an ambitious endeavor that requires exploring capacities to monitor and predict extreme events at the domestic and regional level on varying time scales; inform and prepare governments, communities and the private sector; and respond and recover.

Our trilateral advisory teamⁱ has identified initial priorities of North American scale, primarily on monitoring and early warning, including: utilizing volunteer observer networks to address information gaps for predicting and monitoring extreme events; improving local capacity to monitor drought across North America; using satellite imagery for the development of early warning systems; advancing common methodologies for costing floods and other extreme events; and improving capacity to anticipate, prepare, and respond to wildfire, smoke, and extreme heat.

NAC's advice complements current concepts by focusing on the local needs and existing local expertise on preparedness and response. NAC's advice will inform our implementation of the initiative in several ways:

- The need to consider how communications can be improved to vulnerable, remote and language-challenged communities to engage them to prepare and respond;

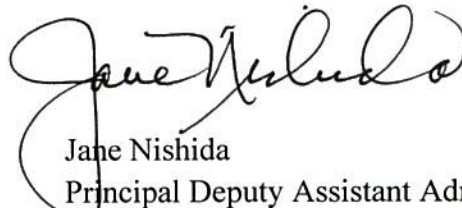
- Engaging local organizations that may have successful experience and expertise and could share best practices as resources (in addition to national resources that serve local needs, such as NOAA's Community Vulnerability Assessment Tool);
- Identifying reliable communication channels to reach communities that may benefit from best practices identified through this CEC initiative;
- Capitalizing on best practices and reliable communication channels to facilitate instructional capacity and institutional memory on preparedness and response.

NAC's list of volunteer and formal organizations, local governments, and experts provided is a valuable resource to inform the initiative moving forward.

We agree that the frequency and severity of extreme events is draining resources for response and recovery and limiting investment in rebuilding infrastructure (power, water, communications, health, housing). Finally, we also agree that a longitudinal analysis of the effectiveness of past and current preparedness, response, and recovery processes for extreme events would be valuable to inform processes and practices moving forward to improve effectiveness.

Thank you for the thoughtful and comprehensive advice and for the commitment from NAC members to help make North American collaboration through the CEC effective and successful.

Sincerely,



Jane Nishida
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of International & Tribal Affairs