***Alaska Mapping Executive Committee*** April 2018

The State of Alaska recognized in 2008 that new technologies would allow the government to map the State to modern standards. The interagency Alaska Mapping Executive Committee (AMEC) was established in November 2012 to provide a mechanism for Federal agencies to collaborate with the State of Alaska to tackle the significant challenge of remapping the entire State. The Committee is co-chaired by executives from the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce.

The Committee’s mapping priorities to date have addressed the acquisition of five core topographic themes. These include statewide high-resolution elevation data under the USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP), a transportation layer developed by the Alaska Department of Transportation, an enhanced surface water layer supported by multiple State and federal programs, updated shoreline delineation managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and an enhanced gravity model managed under NOAA’s GRAV-D program. Each layer is in various stages of completion. See the table at the bottom of this page for a status summary of the five themes.

The acquisition of statewide 5-meter resolution elevation data through airborne interferometric synthetic aperture radar (IfSAR) data has required significant collaboration across multiple federal agencies and the State and is nearing completion. An important derivative product resulting from AMEC’s efforts is generated by combining contour data generated from the new IfSAR data with updated hydrography, shoreline, transportation, and imagery data into new 1:25,000-scale digital Alaska US Topo maps. Under AMEC’s guidance, new topographical maps for 60% of Alaska have been published. Upon final completion of GRAV-D for Alaska, all of the enhanced data layers and maps can be updated to a new Alaska vertical datum to greatly improve product accuracy.

AMEC’s charter was updated in the spring of 2018 to address additional mapping challenges facing Alaska. Committee executives will review mapping opportunities and agency requirements for new data themes including additional topographic mapping themes, updated imagery, transportation, surface water, lidar, bathymetric charting, gravimetric and geophysical surveys, geologic mapping, and land classification mapping. For any newly selected theme, the Committee will raise awareness of the data need and explore avenues for jointly funding its acquisition.

 Completion Status of AMEC Endorsed Alaska Map Themes

