



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
National Geodetic Survey  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282

SEP 15 2011

Mr. Rayce Ruiz  
District Six  
Idaho Transportation Department  
Post Office Box 97  
206 North Yellowstone Highway  
Rigby, Idaho 83442

Dear Mr. Ruiz:

The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) Advisor Program will play an important role as NGS moves forward to implement its Ten-Year Plan and the modernization of the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS). Geodetic advisors will help prepare and educate users to more effectively collect and manage geodetic and survey information, both before and after the implementation of new national datums.

Over the years, NGS and partnering state agencies have jointly supported the State Advisor Program, enabling full-time NGS employees to serve as resident geodetic survey advisors to state and local professionals and stakeholder organizations. In considering its federal responsibility to prepare the nation for the modernization of the NSRS, NGS studied the current structure of the State Advisor Program and assessed options for improvement. As current and anticipated funding levels prevent the expansion of the State Advisor Program to all states, NGS will be restructuring the Advisor Program to extend its reach, moving from a "state" advisor approach to a "regional" advisor focus. To minimize the impact on our partners and employees, NGS plans for the transition to occur primarily through a process of attrition over the next five years. To help ensure a smooth transition, states with an advisor cost-share agreement in place are encouraged to renew the agreement through 2016 as NGS will not fill vacated state advisor positions during the transition process.

I realize this decision impacts your agency, and I ask for your input and assistance to allow the Regional Advisor Program to better serve your needs. The state advisors and NGS leadership are committed to working with you to address concerns that may arise in the process of implementing the Regional Advisor Program.

While the transition to a Regional Advisor Program is expected to take a number of years, funding cuts experienced by a few states, particularly in the southwestern United States, have already affected the joint-funded state advisor positions. NGS assessed the impact to the states, the region, and the personnel involved, and conducted a six-month "regional advisor" pilot study, resulting in the establishment of a provisional Southwest Region and regional advisor.

I have appointed a committee led by Mr. Ross Mackay to develop a Regional Advisor Implementation Plan. In addition, I have asked your state advisor to meet with you to discuss the Regional Advisor Program. You are invited to participate in a teleconference in October to



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discuss our transition plans (date to be announced). Written comments are also welcomed and should be addressed to Mr. Ross Mackay at [Ross.Mackay@noaa.gov](mailto:Ross.Mackay@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,



Juliana P. Blackwell  
Director

cc: Mr. Curtis Smith, NGS State Advisor for Idaho