

Dear NTHMP,

First, I would like to acknowledge many of you are working tirelessly to protect your communities during the COVID-19 public health crisis. Thank you for your service and dedication.

Given the current crisis, health and safety must be our top priority. For this reason, I have decided we will not hold an in-person meeting this summer in Sacramento, CA. This was not an easy decision nor was it one I took lightly. It is not clear when it will be safe to travel and meet in person, and I do not want to put pressure on people who may be uncomfortable traveling. To execute a meaningful and successful meeting, it would require significant time and energy that few of us have to spare as we merge our work and personal life.

Not meeting in person this summer in no way diminishes the amazing work you have done and are continuing to do. Your dedication to protecting people who live and visit tsunami vulnerable communities is clearly visible. You are building an infrastructure for tsunami warnings, educating citizens and visitors about the hazards of tsunamis, practicing life-saving courses of action when tsunamis threaten, and increasing our understanding of the impacts of tsunamis through mapping and modeling. Thank you for your hard work and dedication in realizing these successes.

Finally, it is important to have a plan going forward. Our current plan is to award FY20 NTHMP grants on time. We will work with you to the maximum extent possible as you work through executing these and previous year grants during these challenging times. We will plan to conduct and/or facilitate key components of the MES/MMS/WCS subcommittees virtually as needed and continue to convene regularly scheduled Coordinating Committee meetings.

Thank you once again for your dedication. I look forward to when we can meet again in person, most likely in 2021. Until then please stay safe and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Grant Cooper, Ph.D.  
Chair, NTHMP  
Western Region Director, NOAA/NWS