



*National Weather Service
Employees Organization*

A Message from NWSEO President Werner

(April 1, 2020) NWSEO recently received notification from the National Weather Service that the NOAA Chief Financial Officer is requiring all NOAA Line Offices to review and analyze current and future staffing requirements to determine how many employees are needed to meet their missions. We were told that the overall purpose of this analysis is to create a NOAA manpower baseline, including NWS, that will capture and include all staffing requirements as input to the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget request.

The timing of this notification, considering the current COVID-19 pandemic, raised some red flags. However, after further investigation, it does appear the timing was coincidental, as the initiative to do this analysis started to develop last November. Management has relayed to me their hope that this staffing analysis will lead to a more favorable budget and staffing profile for NWS in the FY 2022 budget request. We have also been assured that the staffing analysis will assume that **there will be no office moves or closures, and that it is in no way meant to reduce the NWS workforce.** I was further informed that NWS is putting together a NWS Staffing Analysis Team to conduct the staffing analysis, which will consider both field and headquarters, and cover all portfolios. To ensure transparency in the analysis, NWSEO requested and NWS management agreed to provide NWSEO insight into the process and provide feedback as the analysis progresses.

NWSEO is eager to participate in this very important activity in the hopes of ensuring our offices receive the staffing required to meet the increasing demands from our partners and the public for environmental information and decision support services. It's extremely important that we (NWS and NWSEO) work together to fix our staffing and budget shortfalls going forward. NWSEO will provide further updates on this subject as they become available.

Fraternally,

John Werner

John Werner
President, National Weather Employees Organization