Greetings,

I hope that you were able to participate in the highly successful one-day symposium held on February 15 that was jointly sponsored by FMA and the ASCE Environmental and Water Resources Institute Sacramento Chapter. FMA’s involvement in this event shows our commitment to identifying and promoting the important role flood management plays in realizing integrated solutions for water management issues. The title of the symposium, “Resiliency of Water Management – Dynamic Balancing in the 21st Century,” indicated that we are looking for forward-thinking ideas and solutions to these difficult issues.

The importance of this symposium was also highlighted by the keynote speaker, John Laird, the newly appointed California Natural Resources Secretary. “A changing climate means we have to look differently to how we manage water,” he states in his opening remarks, which set the tone for the following panel discussions that were very lively and open. Our panel members brought a diverse range of opinions, outlooks and ideas that helped to spark interaction with the conference attendees, as well as push everyone toward more innovative thinking on a variety of water management topics.

We are in the process of finalizing a White Paper that will summarize the key ideas and recommendations set forth by the distinguished panel members and participants in the symposium. As we did following our previous symposium, FMA and ASCE-EWRI will jointly present the White Paper to the Governor and other public officials. Our first symposium White Paper was very well received, and we anticipate that this White Paper will also contribute to the policy discussions surrounding water management in California.

Following the success of the Symposium, we are focusing our efforts towards our annual conference. It is hard to believe that we are only six months away from our San Diego gathering. We have two great Co-chairs, Cid Tesoro, P.E., Program Manager, San Diego County Department of Public Works, and Gary Hildebrand, P.E., Assistant Deputy Director, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, who are already working very hard with the help of the committee to make this conference even bigger and better than the last one. I am sure that their hard work will pay off, and I look forward to seeing you all in San Diego.

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CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS!

2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE:
FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

September 6 - 9, 2011 in San Diego, California

Don’t miss the opportunity to submit an abstract for participation in the 2011 Annual Conference! Join experts and policy makers in addressing the latest in policies, legislation and technical issues in floodplain management. As the premier conference in floodplain management in the West, this event brings hundreds of attendees from around the world and offers a world class exhibition program, excellent networking and professional development opportunities, incredible ocean views and outstanding entertainment, lodging and dining options.

Deadline for abstract submission: May 27, 6:00 p.m.

Visit our web site at www.floodplain.org to link to the conference.

The Floodplain Management Association is pleased to announce the we now have many 2010 Annual Conference Presentations available on our website. Access links to these presentations here.

Iovanka Todt, Executive Director
FEMA RELEASES GUIDANCE ON LEVEE FLOOD RISK STUDIES

FEMA has released two levee-related documents: “Treatment of Levees in Flood Risk Studies” and “Levee Approach FAQs” regarding halting the “without levee” approach and analyzing and mapping flood risk for non-accredited levees. You can find these at the end of this newsletter. Work is underway to develop approaches to more precisely analyze flood risk for levees that cannot be accredited under 44 CFR 65.10. There is recognition that the new approach may not result in reduced flood risk compared to our current approach.

CORPS DEVELOPS COMPREHENSIVE LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM GUIDANCE

Source: Levee Safety Connections

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) launched an effort in December to update and align policy and guidance for the USACE Levee Safety Program. The results will be a comprehensive “engineer circular” used by USACE in the future management of the levees within their portfolio. If you would like more information, please visit the USACE website at: www.usace.army.mil/leveesafety or send an email to USACELeveeSafetyPolicyandProceduresTeam@usace.army.mil.
THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) IS CONDUCTING A CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP). THEY ARE DEVELOPING ANALYTICAL “PACKAGES” FOR CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION, WITH THE GOAL OF ADDRESSING IMMEDIATE CONCERNS SUCH AS AFFORDABILITY AND COVERAGE AS WELL AS LONG-TERM RELEVANCE AND VIABILITY. THE NCLS WILL CONTINUE TO SHARE ITS VIEWS WITH FEMA ON THE PORTRAI BY OF LEVEES ON FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS, REQUIRING OF INSURANCE BEHIND ALL LEVEES AND ADJUSTMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM TO ENCOURAGE GOOD LEVEE SAFETY BEHAVIOR. VISIT www.fema.gov/business/nfip/nfip_reform.shtm FOR MORE INFORMATION.

INTERNATIONAL LEVEE HANDBOOK—TECHNICAL FOUNDATION FOR A NATIONAL LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM

An international consortium including United Kingdom/Ireland, the Netherlands, France, Germany, and the United States is working to develop an International Levee Handbook. The goal is to collect and organize international practices and knowledge with an eye towards developing more consistent yet flexible approaches and standards, decision tools, and ways to share best practices. NCLS members participating in the effort hope that the handbook will provide a foundation for the development of national levee safety standards, a hazard potential classification system and other technical aspects recommended as part of a National Levee Safety Program. For more information,
please contact Kristina Gamst, International Levee Handbook project manager at: kristina.gamst@ciria.org.

NCLS TESTIFIES ON LEVEE SAFETY
Source: Levee Safety Connections

At the invitation of Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer (CA) and Ranking Member James Inhofe (OK), Steve Verigin, Vice President, GEI Consultants and a member of NCLS, testified on behalf of the NCLS on levee issues that could be included in a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill. His testimony from the November 18th hearing can be found on the NCLS website. Because levee safety is not confined to a single committee’s jurisdiction, members of the NCLS will continue to share information about their recommendations with EPW, the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, the House Financial Services Committee, the Senate Banking Committee, the Senate and House Appropriations Committees and others.

PREFERRED RISK POLICY (PRP) ELIGIBILITY EXTENSION
By Edie Lohmann, PBS&J

Effective January 1, 2011 FEMA is introducing a new low cost flood insurance option to help reduce the financial burden placed on property owners whose buildings are newly mapped into a high-risk flood area. Property owners newly mapped into a high-risk flood zone on or after October 1, 2008, may be eligible for the lower-cost Preferred Risk Policy for up to 2 years after the latter of the two following dates:

• The effective date of the map revision, or
• January 1, 2011

Owners of buildings newly mapped into a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) due to a map revision effective on or after October 1, 2008, and before January 1, 2011, are eligible to receive a reduced premium for up to two policy years beginning January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012.

Owners of buildings that will be mapped into a SFHA because of a map revision on or after January 1, 2011, are eligible to receive up to two policy years of reduced premiums after a map revision.
On the third year, owners may be eligible for additional savings through grandfathering. In order to receive the reduced premiums, the property must meet PRP eligibility requirements related to claims and disaster assistance. Previous and current flood zone documentation will be required to validate PRP extension eligibility. Historic and current effective maps are available through FEMA’s Map Service Center at: [www.msc.fema.gov](http://www.msc.fema.gov).

For more information, and to download fact sheets and talking points on the PRP extension visit: [http://www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

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**FEDERAL INTERAGENCY FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE LISTENING SESSION REPORT - FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

By Judy Soutiere, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The US Army Corps of Engineers conducted a listening session for the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force at the Floodplain Management Association (FMA) Annual Conference on 5 November 2010. The audience of 25 people consisted primarily of members of FMA from California, Nevada, and Hawaii, as well as a few invited guests. The members of FMA were primarily engineers and employees of private consulting companies, state and local government agencies, and USACE District offices.

The primary messages delivered to the Task Force...