



FMA News

The Newsletter of the Floodplain Management Association
www.floodplain.org

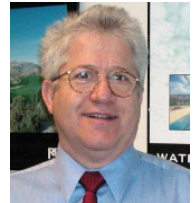
Fall 2010

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Letter From the Chair



Greetings,

As I enjoy the nice, dry summer days in Sacramento, I am constantly reminded in the news that we can not relax when it comes to flood risk management. Whatever the season, somewhere in the world there are major floods threatening lives and property as the result of extreme weather. In just the past few months we have witnessed a dam failure caused by heavy rain in Iowa, as well as major flooding in China, Pakistan and many European countries. These events should enforce our commitment to work much harder to reduce the flood risk for our own communities.

There is no shortage of things we can do. For example, the California Department of Water Resources started the new cycle to update the Water Plan by 2013. Following a successful first step in the 2009 update to incorporate flood management concepts into the Plan, we need to step up our involvement to make sure that this Plan update even further integrates water supply and flood risk management. I encourage all of you to get involved and participate in any way you can through task committees and regional meetings. We need to have our voice heard throughout the process.

Since this is the last newsletter before our annual conference, I want to let you know about the great program developed for this year. This year's conference hosts a regional listening session organized by the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force offering a great opportunity for influencing national floodplain management policy. Also, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is scheduling meetings with community representatives interested in discussing potential and existing water resources projects. FEMA Region 9 is also holding one-on-one sessions with local communities to discuss mapping issues, NFIP, CRS, grants and other important matters. National and state updates on regulations and policy affecting the arid regions will highlight the plenary. Two exceptional tours, the Hoover Dam Tour and Las Vegas Wash, are specially designed for floodplain managers.

See you all at the conference this November!

-Pal



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FMA Annual Conference & ASFPM Arid Regions Symposium!

Conference Co-Chairs:
Kevin Eubanks, P.E., CFM
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Clark County Regional Flood Control District
&
Gerry Hester, P.E.
Las Vegas Wash Facilities Program Manager
Southern Nevada Water Authority

Join floodplain management experts and policy makers to discuss adaptive strategies in meeting the changing federal and state regulations affecting floodplains, particularly in the arid regions. This important conference will bring together stakeholders to engage in a new dialogue to develop important recommendations to policy makers and the regulatory community. The Conference will also host the ASFPM Arid Regions Symposium, an outstanding series of professional development workshops and over 36 technical sessions and panels. Topics include:

- ◆ Challenges and Recommendations Concerning EPA Stormwater Discharge Regulations in the Arid Regions
- ◆ Meeting New EPA Water Quality Standards for Selenium and Other Pollutants in Arid Regions
- ◆ Regional Listening Session with the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force
- ◆ Impact of New Federal Principles and Guidelines & Corps of Engineers Variance Process
- ◆ FEMA RiskMAP Update
- ◆ Levee Certification Developments in Policy and Practice
- ◆ Alluvial Fan Multi-Hazard Delineation Techniques and Tools
- ◆ Erosion Control and Sediment Management
- ◆ Stream Channel Hydromodification and Stabilization
- ◆ Update on HEC Software and Methods
- ◆ Land Use Planning and Floodplain Ordinances in the Arid Regions
- ◆ Disaster Preparedness - Flood Forecasting and Warning
- ◆ Tours of Hoover Dam Tour and Las Vegas Wash
- ◆ Workshops in floodplain mapping, modeling, NFIP and communication
- ◆ USACE Arid Regions Demonstration Programs Track
- ◆ Special technical sessions on levees, alluvial fans, GIS, financing, storm-water management and other topics...

Visit the FMA web site at www.floodplain.org! A limited number of rooms have been reserved at the premier Loews on Lake Las Vegas!

Floodplain Management Association to Host Regional Listening Session for the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force

The Federal Interagency Floodplain Management (FIFM) Task Force was authorized and established by Congress in 1975 to carry out the responsibility of the President to prepare for the Congress proposals necessary for a Unified National Program for Floodplain Management. In 1994, the Task Force submitted to the President A Unified National Program for Floodplain Management, which called for the formulation of a more “comprehensive, coordinated approach to protecting and managing human and natural systems” in a sustainable development context. The Task Force includes representatives from the following agencies: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Homeland Security-FEMA, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of the Interior, Department of Transportation, Council on Environmental Quality, Environmental Protection Agency, General Services Administration and Tennessee Valley Authority. Before being reconvened in 2009, the Task Force last met in 1997 after publishing the document *Protecting Floodplain Resources: A Guidebook for Communities*.

On Friday, November 5, the Task Force will be holding a professionally facilitated Listening Session at the FMA Annual Conference. The Session is designed to achieve the following results:

- ◆ Provide an overview of key concepts and themes associated with floodplain management, as well as the related laws, regulations, current initiatives, and future initiatives (such as development of a unified, national vision)
- ◆ Explore the most significant benefits associated with floodplain management, and identify the challenges to achieving this vision; and
- ◆ Obtain the perspectives of local stakeholders on how these challenges can be addressed in order to more effectively protect resources and reduce hazards to people and property.

Don't miss this important opportunity to discuss critical regulatory, legal, financial and policy priorities affecting state and local programs.

Changes Coming for the CRS

FEMA's Community Rating System offers flood insurance policy holders reductions in their premiums if their communities implement floodplain management activities above and beyond the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. More information about the CRS can be found at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/CRS/> or by contacting Dave Arkens (DMarkens@iso.com or 541/261-9186).

The program has proven popular in the FMA states where 82 communities participate. Seventy-two of the 82 are in California. The California Department of Water Resources is gearing up to improve the CRS and help make it easier for local officials to improve their programs and improve their premium discounts.

The CRS began in 1990 and is now undergoing an in-depth evaluation. Last year FEMA adopted a Strategic Plan for the program which lays out the priorities for the evaluation. The Plan tasks the CRS Task Force to ensure that all CRS credits are appropriate and fully earned and to encourage communities to continually improve their floodplain management programs.

As part of this work, each of the 18 CRS activities are being evaluated by Task Force committees. There are also committees on overarching issues, such as coastal credits and natural floodplain functions. Their work is expected to be done in June 2011 and their recommendations will appear in the 2012 *CRS Coordinator's Manual*. Some draft reports are expected out for comment in September.

While several FMA members are advisors to some of those committees, FMA would like to expand the opportunities to review and comment on these evaluations and the changes that will result. FMA has created a CRS Committee as a focal point for this effort. Maria Lorenzo-Lee of the Department of Water Resources' Floodplain Management Branch is the Chair. The Committee will pursue a three pronged approach:

1. The Committee will assemble and consolidate members' concerns and pass them on to the CRS Task Force.
2. The Committee will sponsor a special session on the proposed changes and gather comments at the FMA annual conference in Henderson in November.
3. The Committee will work with DWR to create CRS user groups where there is local interest. User groups have

proven very successful in other states where local officials meet periodically to review CRS activities and areas of mutual concern. They can be very effective in collating and voicing the concerns of the CRS communities in the area.

More information about these initiatives can be obtained from Maria Lorenzo-Lee (mlorenzo@water.ca.gov) or Dave Rolph, CRS Coordinator for DWR (drolph@water.ca.gov, 916/574-1450).

CRS Workshops and Meetings at the FMA Annual Conference

Three CRS activities are held at the FMA annual conference in Henderson this November:

- ♦ A workshop titled “The CRS for Newcomers.” This will explain the program and walk attendees through the new California CRS Application.
- ♦ A second workshop for CRS Coordinators: “What’s coming next year and what you can do about it.” This session is for people familiar with the program, especially local CRS Coordinators. California DWR will explain the status of the Strategic Planning evaluation of the CRS and what the likely changes will be in the next CRS Coordinator’s Manual. It will also be a forum for comments about the changes and for organizing CRS user groups.
- ♦ One-on-one meetings with interested individuals to talk over the details of a particular community. These have been successful in the past for local officials who are in the CRS and for those considering joining. Half hour appointments are usually scheduled in advance, but can also be scheduled

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while at the conference. Watch for a pre-conference survey to sign up.

U.S. Army Corps Offers One-on-One Sessions with Local Agencies

At this year’s FMA Annual Conference, the Corps would like to give you an opportunity to discuss a broad range of issues. The Corps will not be able to talk project specifics but can provide ideas on how to work your way through processes including Planning, Risk Communication, Levee Safety, Flood Plain Management, Watersheds, etc. for your efforts. Twenty minutes per session only. Please sign up ahead of time by emailing Judy Soutiere, at Judy.M.Soutiere@usace.army.mil.

Improving Public Involvement in Flood Risk Management

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers July Newsletter (edited)

In September of 2008 the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) initiated a three phased study through the Institute for Water Resources (IWR) to develop a framework for improving public involvement in its flood risk management programs. The study was to “improve [the] framework and methods to encourage public involvement, with special emphasis on those who will bear the risk, in selecting the proper combination of structural, nonstructural, zoning, and emergency response components in the flood risk reduction system.”

The first of the three phases, completed in 2009, took the form of a concept paper. The paper defined and outlined the spectrum of public involvement activities, considering

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