



FMA News

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

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Letter From the Chair



August 2009

Greetings!

This is a time of change in floodplain management. The NFIP is up for re-authorization, FEMA is moving into an emphasis on risk communication using digital flood maps which will change how we think about where we choose to develop and Craig Fugate, the new FEMA administrator, twitters. Climate change will affect floodplain management in ways we cannot anticipate. Many of these subjects will be discussed at our annual conference (okay, not the twittering part). I hope that many of you will be able to attend our 2009 Annual Conference, Investing in Floodplains for Future Generations, scheduled for September 8 through 11, 2009 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, California. We now have electronic registration available on our website, www.floodplain.org.

I encourage you to participate in the elections of the executives and directors on the FMA board. Elections close on August 28 at 5 pm, and the new Board will be announced at the annual conference.

It has been my sincere pleasure to serve as the Chair of this organization for the last two years. I will continue to be actively involved, and hope to watch FMA continue to grow and carry out the mission of floodplain management education and training. I hope to see you in San Jose, California at the conference. Best wishes and good luck to one and all!

Jeanne



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Senator Michael Machado as Keynote Speaker at FMA Conference

Senator Michael J. Machado, Retired, became Strategic Consultant to Sacramento Advocates, Inc. in 2009 after the conclusion of his 14 years of service in the Legislature. In the Legislature, Senator Machado distinguished himself as a pragmatic moderate Democrat, whose business background kept him grounded as he considered public policy issues. He brought together the final 2007 flood package with his bill, SB 5, which requires the Department of Water Resources and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board to prepare and adopt a Central Valley Flood Protection Plan by 2012, and establishes flood protection requirements for local land-use decisions consistent with the Central Valley Protection Plan, SB 310 and SB 555. At the FMA conference, Senator Machado will address the effectiveness of the 2007 flood-related legislation, the continuing challenge of linking land use with flood and natural resource management, and challenges and opportunities for future legislation and funding.

In 2007, FMA awarded Senator Machado the Hogg-Owen Award for Meritorious Achievement for his efforts to promote effective and timely Statewide flood management policy and promote integrated water resources planning for water supply, storm water management, levee protection, delta emergency preparedness, and clean drinking water.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
FMA 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SEPT 8-11, The Fairmont in San Jose, California

Visit www.floodplain.org for the Final Program!



California DWR Update

Ricardo Pineda and Maria Lorenzo-Lee, Floodplain Management Branch

Several new changes have happened around the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Floodplain Management Branch: the Levee Repairs & Floodplain Management Office, of which our Branch is a part, has a new Office Chief, Dan Whisman. Similarly, the Flood Management Division also has a new Chief, Gary Bardini.

Many projects and programs have recently completed or are about to complete significant milestones: the Alluvial Fan Task Force final draft report is in development and near completion; the Building Standards Code Update Project recently submitted its update proposal to the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) on July 1, and DWR will embark on the CBSC code adoption process in August 2009; the mapping contractors for the Central Valley Floodplain Evaluation and Delineation program will begin collecting structure data from local communities.

FloodSAFE California's Central Valley Flood Management Planning (CVFMP) Program will launch several topic-based and place-based work groups beginning in early August. Additional information is available on the CVFMP Program website: www.water.ca.gov/cvfmfp.

DWR has always engaged in cooperative efforts with other federal, state, and community agency partners. DWR is currently collaborating with



other State agencies to develop a Users Guide for incorporating flood risk considerations into general plans and addressing other 2007 legislative planning requirements. Barring budget cuts, the Users Guide should be out by late 2009. We also hope to partner with CalEMA on their Local Hazard Mitigation Planning workshops planned for Fall 2009.

Hazard Mitigation Planning grant Notice of Interest are due on August 7, 2009 and grant applications (such as Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Planning) are due to CalEMA by October 31, 2009. For more information, visit CalEMA's Website, www.calema.ca.gov and go to the Hazard Mitigation web portal. On August 27, the monthly FMA luncheon will feature a presentation by Paul Ransom (CalEMA) on Hazard Mitigation Grants.

As is widely known, the State of California is facing mandatory furlough of state employees and possible budget cuts. These fiscal problems may negatively affect programs financed by the General Fund.

More information on the Division of Flood Management can be found at: www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/ and on the FloodSAFE initiative by visiting www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/ or e-mailing floodSAFE@water.ca.gov.

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- Floodplain Mapping
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- Hydrologic/Hydraulic Analysis/Design
- Sediment Transport Studies
- Bridge Hydraulics/Scour Analysis
- Channel/Levee/Dam Design
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- Program/Policy Development
- Non-Structural Solutions
- Stormwater Master Planning

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Nevada DWR Update

Kim Groenewold, Nevada DWR

- ◆ Nevada Model Floodplain Management Ordinance – The Nevada Model Ordinance has been updated to incorporate federal floodplain management standards that were missing in the 1999 version. The new ordinance is also reformatted and instructions for using the model ordinance are included. The 2009 Nevada Model Floodplain Management Ordinance is available on the Nevada Division of Water Resources website at water.nv.gov.
- ◆ Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program in Nevada – This year Nevada Division of Emergency Management and the Nevada Floodplain Management Program have combined training, outreach and application processes for Nevada communities applying for FEMA hazard mitigation grants. Mitigation grants are available to Nevada communities through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC), and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) programs. An unprecedented number of Notices of Intent to apply for grants to fund flood mitigation projects were received this year from Carson City, Douglas, Lincoln, and Storey counties, and the Truckee River Flood Project Office.
- ◆ Flood Insurance and DFIRM releases – The Nevada Floodplain Management Program continues to assist Nevada communities with coordinating community outreach to provide information on the flood insurance implications of new DFIRM releases. FEMA Region IX staff provided relevant and accurate flood insurance information at public meetings in Reno, Yerington, and Lockwood. Some minor mapping discrepancies on the new DFIRMs have emerged in Nevada for areas that had not been restudied, including flood zone boundary shift, registration error, and omission of approved Letter of Map Revision data. These discrepancies have created insurance repercussions for some property owners who find themselves now located in Special Flood Hazard Areas upon release of the new maps.
- ◆ L273 Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP – Plans are currently underway to present the week long FEMA L273 course in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Clark County Regional Flood Control District offices during March 1-5, 2010. The course will be available to all NFIP community floodplain managers and staff throughout Region IX. Preference will be given to local community officials responsible for floodplain management. This is the same course presented through the California Department of Water Resources last year in Milbrae, California and will be offered at no cost for the course. Attendees will be responsible for all travel costs. A block of hotel rooms at a discounted rate will be made available to all attendees.
- ◆ Senate Bill 433 was passed in the 2009 Nevada Legislative Session and declares a Statement of Emergency requiring most State classified employees to take 96 hours of unpaid furlough leave in each of the next two fiscal years. This works out to 8 hours of furlough each month. Nevada state employees began taking mandatory furloughs on July 1, 2009.
- ◆ The Nevada Division of Water Resources be-

