

July 31, 2009

Honorable Tribal Chair and Council Members:

Floods threaten sacred Tribal sites, water supply, fish and ecosystems, housing, and the prosperity and safety of people. We support greater and genuine Tribal representation in the Local, State and Federal decisions that directly impact Tribal floodplains, rivers and the safety of Tribal communities. We would like to invite you to participate in the workshop, **Flood Management and Tribal Lands – Past, Present, and Future**, and a follow-up panel session, **Partnering with Native American Tribes – Past, Present, and Future**, at the Floodplain Management Association's 2009 annual conference. The workshop and panel have been planned by a group of Tribal, State, and Federal representatives. The conference will be held at the Fairmont Hotel, 170 South Market Street, in San Jose (<http://www.fairmont.com/sanjose>).

The workshop will be held on **Tuesday, September 8, from 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM**. Highlights will include:

- a showcase of Tribal expertise with managing floodplains and flooding
- information on a series of State and Federal funding grant resources, technical assistance programs, and trainings related to flood management, mapping, and emergency response
- discussion of how Tribes can prepare for the forecasted El Niño event this winter
- discussion of next steps and activities that would benefit Tribal flood management efforts

This workshop is free for Tribal members and staff, and food and refreshments will be included, although travel reimbursement is not available. It is also open to floodplain managers attending the conference, and will provide many opportunities for direct dialogue and discussion.

The panel will be held on the following day, **Wednesday, September 9, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM**, directly after the opening convocation and general session. The panel will focus on partnering between Tribal governments and flood agencies. It will explore three successful examples from around California. It is also free for Tribal members and staff. *However, if you wish to attend the remainder of the conference, which runs through Friday, September 11th, please register for the event through our conference web site (see address below).*

We hope you will join us and help to shape policies, tools and actions for floodplain management in California to protect the safety, interests and resources of your Tribal community.

So that we can prepare appropriately, **please RSVP no later than Tuesday, September 1**, to Dorian Fougères at (916) 341-3328 or fougeres@gmail.com. If you have questions on the workshop or panel you may also direct these to Dorian. For general information and logistics on the conference, including directions and hotel accommodations, please visit our conference website at <http://www.floodplain.org/conference.php>.

Sincerely,

Iovanka Todt
Executive Director
Floodplain Management Association

La Vonne Peck
FEMA Tribal Authorized Representative
La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians

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