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## Floodplain Management Association of California, Nevada and Hawaii 2009 Year in Review

- (1) The Annual Conference brought over 500 attendees to San Jose, CA, a well-attended exhibit hall, six concurrent tracks, a half-day multi-objective field trip, 18 professional workshops, a risk communication roundtable, a HAZUS roundtable, and a Tribal Flood Summit. The conference featured a legislative and policy plenary, cutting edge tools, discussions in financing strategies in floodplain management, regulatory developments, flood risk and land use planning, climate change, FEMA and Army Corps programs update, levees, dam safety, sustainable development, coastal floodplains, flood response and recovery, and many others. The 2010 Conference will be held this November in Henderson, NV and will feature an overall theme focused on responding to increasing federal regulations, especially stormwater. FMA will be preparing white papers and letters to federal and state agencies to provide important technical and policy information concerning the regulatory challenges facing floodplain management agencies in CA, NV and HI, based on the discussions and forums at this Conference. The Conference will also host forums on state and federal legislation, levees, land use planning and other critical topics.
- (2) FMA will be hosting the 2010 ASFPM Arid Regions Symposium at its Annual Conference in November. The Arid Regions Committee plans important discussions on policy and technical issues and invites all Arid Region Chapters to participate. Jeannie Ruefer, FMA Past-Chair, Accenture, and Robert Davies, AMEC, are co-chairs the Arid Regions Committee.
- (3) The Association also held three well-attended multi-day professional development workshops in 2009: Advanced HEC-RAS, Erosion and Sediment Management, and HEC-HMS. Two more workshops are planned Spring 2010: FLO-2D and Geomorphology & Alluvial Fans.
- (4) A very successful joint Symposium with ASCE's Environmental and Water Resources Institute was held in Sacramento in 2009 to address sustainability of California's communities through effective principles and practice in water management, land use, floodplain management and other areas. The Association and EWRI met with Congresswoman Matsui to discuss important sustainability objectives developed at the Symposium for the State of California and to highlight flood, stormwater and water supply infrastructure needs. Another Symposium is being planned for September 2010.



## *Floodplain Management Association*

*"TO PROMOTE THE COMMON INTEREST IN REDUCING FLOOD LOSSES AND TO ENCOURAGE  
THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF NATURAL FLOODPLAIN VALUES"*

- (5) FMA has been an active participant on the development of the California Water Plan, as an official member of the State Advisory Committee, and participated in numerous caucuses and special sessions to address floodplain management in the Plan. The final 2010 update will be posted this Spring. FMA anticipates to hold special forums and sessions to help expand the incorporation of flood management stakeholder views and concerns in future Water Plan updates. Iovanka Todt, FMA Executive Director, and Pal Hegedus, FMA Chair, RBF Consulting represent FMA on this statewide effort.
- (6) FMA continues its Advisory Member role in the California Statewide Watershed Program, represented by FMA's Executive Director. AB1525 was introduced by Assemblywoman Noreen Evans to expand the existing program but was held back in the Appropriations Committee until the 2010 legislative session. A new effort is anticipated in 2010 to rewrite the legislation.
- (7) FMA is also a core member of the California Alluvial Fan Task Force, represented by Marty Teal, FMA Vice-Chair, WEST Consultants. Assembly Bill 2141 recommended the creation of this Task Force. Other members included elected officials from the ten Southern California counties in the study area, representatives of the development and environmental community, local floodplain managers and associated state and federal agencies, including FEMA, plus at-large members representing other issues related to future development on alluvial fans. The Task Force developed a suite of local planning tools (Integrated Approach Toolkit) for pre-project screening that are designed to assist local communities that need to plan for and evaluate future development proposals on alluvial fans. Flood management tools were also developed by the Task Force, consistent with FEMA guidelines, to analyze alluvial fan flood hazards and to formulate flood hazard protection. Together, these tools suggest how to incorporate multiple objectives into future development on alluvial fans to ensure public health and safety, reduce the losses and damages caused by the natural hazards that may be present on alluvial fans, and preserve the beneficial values provided by alluvial fans. The Task Force was also charged with developing a Model Ordinance that cities and counties with alluvial fans located within their jurisdictions may voluntarily adopt or modify as needed to meet local needs. Task Force products will be coming out later this year and featured at the November 2010 FMA Annual Conference in Henderson, Nevada.
- (8) FMA served as a member of an advisory team addressing Building Codes for 200-year Floodplains in California. Senate Bill 5 of 2007 requires the adoption and approval by the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) of updated requirements to the California Building Standards Code (Code). The updated requirements apply to single-family homes and residential care facilities with six or fewer clients in areas protected by the facilities of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) where flood depths are anticipated to exceed three feet for a 200-year flood event. The CBSC has approved the new requirements which will become effective March 1, 2012. FMA was represented by Pal Hegedus, FMA Chair, RBF Consulting.
- (9) FMA continues involvement in other strategic planning and policy efforts including the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, FloodSAFE, and other efforts, conferences and symposiums.



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- (10) FMA is holding regular luncheons in Sacramento and San Diego covering the latest policy, legislative and technical developments in California. Additional locations are being planned for California and Nevada.
- (11) The Association continues to grow rapidly to approximately 500 members as it is now recognized as the premier venue for floodplain management professionals in California, Nevada and Hawaii, and an active voice in floodplain management connecting policy makers with scientists, planners, regulators, engineers, educators and researchers to develop effective policies, technology and methods for sustainable floodplains.