

FMA 2010 Annual Conference

The Floodplain Management Association announces the **2010 Annual Conference, November 2-5 at the Loews on Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, Nevada** (www.floodplain.org). Floodplain management agencies, policy makers and experts are meeting in a series of panels to discuss adaptive strategies for meeting the changing federal and state regulations affecting flood risk and floodplain management in the West. With an opening plenary addressing new developments in flood risk management, levees and stormwater management from national and state perspectives, the program hosts over 30 technical sessions on a broad range of topics in flood risk and floodplain management. Two outstanding field trips, the Hoover Dam special engineering tour and the Las Vegas Wash tour, will highlight the adaptive approaches to water resources management in the arid regions. A broad range of workshops will also be offered to meet the critical needs of flood and storm water resources professionals. For a comprehensive national perspective, the Conference will hold two sessions relating to major national efforts in floodplain management: (a) A special session of the National Levee Safety Committee, and (b) a listening session by the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force.

Federal Highlights: FEMA NFIP Program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 9 has an extensive program at this year's Conference. FEMA is offering one-on-one meetings with agencies and communities during the afternoon of Tuesday, November 2. This is a great opportunity to discuss mapping issues, flood insurance, Risk MAP and other topics in your community. Also on Tuesday, November 2, a series of workshops are offered to support the NFIP program: a Hazard Mitigation Grant Application Workshop; CRS for Newcomers; CRS Coordinators Workshop; Flood Insurance for Floodplain Managers; National Flood Insurance Program Agent/Lender/Realtor Workshop; New Process of DFIRM & LOMC Submissions under FEMA's Risk Map Phase; Effects of Map Changes on Insurance -Grandfathering; PRP-Extension and More; and eLOMA – Changing the face of the Map Amendment Process. On Wednesday, November 3, Eric Simmons of FEMA will be moderating an important session to address ongoing issues with resilient development, sustainable floodplain management, and flood risk communication. In addition, ongoing flood hazard mapping activities, the NFIP, as well as FEMA's Risk MAP program will be discussed. FEMA will also be a key participant in several panels throughout the conference, including an interactive discussion on methods for flood risk delineation on alluvial fans, scheduled for Thursday, November 4. A Local Community AR/A99/SFHA Round Table will also be held on the morning of Thursday, November 4, hosted by Scott Shapiro of Downey Brand. As local communities are remapped by FEMA's Map Modernization Program, or because of new scientific or technical information, many have explored the application of AR and A99 zones, or have looked for a different Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) that reflects their unique circumstances. The purpose of this Round Table is to bring together these communities to share information, discuss changes to the NFIP proposed by Congress and actions that might be taken by FEMA, and explore the possibility of working together to advance the interests of local communities.

Federal Highlights: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will be very active in this year's conference. Starting with a comprehensive review and update of the HEC modeling software on Tuesday, November 2, the USACE will address the latest development in hydrologic and hydraulic modeling and Joe Remondini will hold a workshop on non-structural flood risk reduction measures. Also on Tuesday, USACE invites local agencies in one-on-one sessions to discuss programmatic issues. Judy Soutiere, Flood Risk Management Team, Institute for Water Resources, USACE, will moderate a Corps panel discussing new policies affecting the time and quality of studies to be completed by USACE, the Corps' centers of expertise and new policies in Levee Safety. USACE will also participate in an important panel addressing Dam and Reservoir Operations on Wednesday, November 3, and will play a key role in the Levees From Every Angle Panel scheduled for Thursday, November 4. In collaboration with the Desert Research Institute (Nevada), USACE has also organized on the same day a complete track (4 sessions) for the Arid Regions Demonstration Programs, a series of important technology research projects that serve as a springboard for new approaches and solutions in flood risk management in the arid regions.

State and Local Highlights

The Conference will host a series of discussions and presentations affecting state and local issues, especially in the technical sessions. A special session, Flood Risk Management in California – Current Efforts, on Thursday, November 4, will present the DWR - USACE Central Valley Flood Hydrology Study; Flood Management in the Coachella Valley; the State Plan of Flood Control; and System Wide Analysis for Flood Management Planning. In a follow-up session on public involvement and outreach, presenters will discuss Outreach and Engagement for the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan – Lessons Learned; Creating a Broadly Supported Vision for Improving Integrated Flood Management in the Central Valley; Riparian Sanctuary: Interest-Based Collaboration Model for Pumping Plant Protection and Riparian Restoration on the Sacramento River; and Developing Outreach Programs and Engaging the Public through Community Listening Sessions. The Conference is packed with state and local demonstrations and new approaches on topics such as Flood Risk Communication Strategies and Tools, Flood Project Financing, Floodplain Restoration, Floodplain Mapping and Floodplain Modeling.

Special Focus: Levees

This year's program continues its standing legacy on exploring critical issues affecting levees. A complete levee track is highlighted by the Thursday, November 4, morning panel, Levees From Every Angle, which will discuss criteria and processes, special situations, obtaining and keeping certification, mitigation planning and the future of the levee certification program. Moderated by Mark Gookin, Wood Rodgers, Inc., the panel includes Jim Farley, US Army Corps of Engineers, Gerard Kapuscik, Ventura County WPD, Eric Simmons, FEMA Region 9, Dusty Williams, Riverside County FCD, Mike Fox, San Bernardino FCD, Jon Fuller, JE Fuller Hydrology & Geomorphology, Inc., Ricardo Pineda, California Dept. of Water Resources, Eric Simmons, FEMA Region 9, and Tim Phillips, Maricopa County. The levee track has been designed to include a series of technical sessions, including: Inspection, Surveys,

Monitoring and Inventory; Remediation, Certification and Flood Planning; FEMA PAL Process and BFEs; and Innovative Designs and Products.

Special Focus: Arid Regions and Alluvial Fans

A full track of technical sessions addressing arid regions flood risk and floodplain management includes: Flood Hazard Evaluation and Delineation; Levees, Embankments and Vegetation; Geomorphic and Geologic Methods; and, Modeling. In addition, the ASFPM Arid Regions Committee will be presenting the draft paper titled “Need for Updating Alluvial Fan Floodplain Delineation Guidelines: A White Paper” by Jon Fuller on Wednesday, November 3, and will solicit input from agencies and stakeholders evaluating flood risk on alluvial fans. This session will be followed next day by a 3-hour interactive discussion on the appropriate use of models to evaluate flood risk on alluvial fans, and will make specific recommendations for improvement to existing methods and approaches. This session will host panels with FEMA, local agencies, experts and attorneys looking at projects involving development on alluvial fans.

Professional Development

This year’s conference offers unique professional development opportunities through continuing education credits in several areas. New workshops added this year build important skills to increase professional competitiveness such as: Communication Workshop for Floodplain Managers – an essential toolbox for engineering, science and research professionals working in teams; Public Involvement for Floodplain Managers – a unique workshop developed by Dennis Bowker, public involvement expert, to help local agencies and stakeholders collaborate on multi-objective projects; and, Engineering Ethics – an outstanding discussion of ethics presented by David T. Williams, Ph.D.

Once again, the FMA Annual Conference promises to be the premier venue for flood risk and floodplain management professionals in the West.