



Association of State FloodPlain Managers

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Recommendations for FEMA Transition

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Three major recommendations from the Association of State Floodplain Managers are:

1. Restore FEMA to independent status with direct access to the President.
2. Reinvigorate and re-elevate the importance of mitigation and recovery, two of the four elements of hazard policy that have been diminished in importance.
3. Appoint as FEMA Director an individual who appreciates the essential and genuine partnership between FEMA and state and local officials that is key to successful performance of FEMA's mission.

A letter is attached that provides further background on ASFPM's views on the above.

Our recommendations for actions that can be taken early in the new Administration with specific regard to mitigation, risk identification, recovery and insurance follow.

Mitigation, Recovery and Insurance

1. Include consideration of hazard mitigation associated with infrastructure projects funded through an economic stimulus package.
2. Consider including in the stimulus package highly rated projects submitted but not funded under the limited resources of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant (PDM) program. Consider adjusting or eliminating the required match under PDM and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to facilitate local capacity to implement mitigation projects.
3. Move to quickly implement the effort underway at FEMA to unify requirements associated with its mitigation programs.
4. Ensure continued strong support by FEMA for participation in quarterly meetings of relatively new close collaboration on risk reduction between US Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, ASFPM and National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA). Group is called Intergovernmental Flood Risk Management Committee (IFRMC).
5. Initiate long-delayed rulemaking on previously passed laws: from the Disaster Mitigation Act 2000 the delegation of management of the HMGP program to selected states and from the Flood Insurance Reform Act 2004 simplification and improvement of the Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) mitigation component of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
6. Re-adjust the percentage to states under HMGP for state management costs.



7. Require private non-profit grantees under the Stafford Act to consider mitigation.
8. Authorize use of Public Assistance disaster relief funds for damage inspection and permitting.
9. Require cost-effective mitigation as part of Public Assistance.
10. Initiate rulemaking to implement appropriate recommendations of NFIP Evaluation issued April, 2008. FEMA has already screened for which can be implemented administratively.

Risk Identification and Mapping

1. Include in the FY 2010 budget sufficient funds (\$400 million) for mapping, risk identification activities under the newly developed RiskMAP program designed for 2010-2014.
2. Promote the collaboration just underway between risk identification (mapping) and mitigation planning.
3. Initiate clear guidance for mapping, accrediting levees and the Provisionally Accredited Levee (PAL) process.

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) is an association of 13,000 members and 27 state chapters, representing state and local floodplain managers and professionals from related fields nationwide. For three decades the ASFPM and its members have been FEMA's partners in implementing programs to reduce loss of life and property due to flooding. Our state members are appointed by their state governors to manage flood risk reduction programs in their respective states as well as coordinate the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).