



FEMA

Risk MAP *Local*

News and Information about the Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) Program in FEMA Region IX

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upcoming events >>>

Region IX – Community Assistance Program Conference

Region IX staff meets with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) State Coordinators and other State and Federal entities responsible for floodplain management throughout the Region annually to discuss key issues, exchange updates and coordinate on the year ahead. This year's meeting is scheduled for mid-February. Highlights from the conference will be featured in the next edition of Risk MAP Local.

California Flood Preparedness Week

Most California flooding occurs during the winter months of December, January, and February, making November the ideal time to remind Californians to be aware and prepared for water events.

This past November 4-9, public entities participated in more than 20 events and activities organized throughout California for the second annual California Flood Preparedness Week. Counties and communities, in coordination with FEMA, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Weather Service, and other State, Federal and local partners, used this opportunity to raise awareness about flood risk and to encourage all to take action.



The events and activities ranged from statewide to local efforts. The week kicked off with a memorable induction of California into the Silver Jackets program. Silver Jackets teams are State-led, interagency groups that focus on the State's priorities for reducing flood risk through increased communication and improved coordination. "One in five Californians lives in a floodplain, and \$580 billion in crops, structures and public infrastructure are exposed to flooding. It is imperative that our communities are aware of their risk so they can prepare themselves and take action should a flood occur," said Terri Wegener, DWR program manager, who leads California's new Silver Jackets team. For more information on California Silver Jackets visit, www.nfrmp.us/state/factCalifornia.cfm.

Another statewide event included the release of **California's Flood Future: Recommendations for Managing California's Flood Risk**. This comprehensive report recommends future actions to improve floodplain management throughout the State.

During Flood Preparedness Week, local events ranged from flood fighting training to flood preparedness activities for K through 12 students. High Water Mark signs (11 in total) were posted throughout the cities of Sacramento and Roseville to promote the flood awareness of historical high river levels and to encourage responsive action. "Installation of these signs serves to underscore Roseville's commitment to alerting and educating our residents and businesses about the devastating impacts of floods and the importance of flood preparedness," said Carl Walker, who oversees Roseville's Know Your Line program. The unveiling of these signs was the culminating event for this year's Flood Preparedness Week.

A High Water Mark event took place at Garcia Bend Park in the "Pocket" neighborhood of Sacramento on Friday, November 8, 2013. A distinguished panel of speakers gathered to deliver important messages about flood risk awareness. Representative Doris Matsui told the crowd to remain "hyper-vigilant" and continually strive for higher levels of flood protection, even on a beautiful day. She noted that together we have spent hundreds of millions of dollars to keep floods from happening.



RiskMAP
Increasing Resilience Together

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Flood Hazard Mapping Project Update

Updated FIRMs (May 2013 - November 2014)

*indicates a projected date

	Effective	Finalized	Preliminary
SF Bay Area Coastal Study PMR, Marin County, CA	TBD	TBD	3/24/2014*
Santa Barbara County, CA PMR	TBD	TBD	12/13/2013
West Cucamonga Creek PMR, San Bernardino County, CA	TBD	TBD	9/19/2013
Camarillo and Somis Drain PMR, Ventura County, CA	TBD	TBD	9/13/2013
Mohave County, AZ PMR	TBD	TBD	8/28/2013
Big Bug Creek PMR, Yavapai County, AZ	TBD	TBD	8/22/2013
PAL PMR, Honolulu, HI	11/5/2014*	5/5/2014*	6/21/2013
East Ojai PMR, Ventura County, CA	9/26/2014*	3/26/2014*	5/8/2013
San Jacinto River PMR, Riverside County, CA	8/18/2014*	2/18/2014*	4/19/2013
Evans Creek & White Lake PMR, Washoe County, NV	6/18/2013	12/18/2012	9/14/2011
Vallejo PMR, Solano County, CA	6/9/2014	12/9/2013	1/31/2013

(continued) Updated FIRMs (May 2013 - November 2014)

*indicates a projected date

	Effective	Finalized	Preliminary
Ross Valley and Mill Valley PMR, Marin County, CA	3/17/2014	9/17/2013	11/13/2012
Penitencia, Coyote Creeks PMR, Santa Clara County, CA	2/19/2014	8/19/2013	8/13/2012
Elko County, NV	9/4/2013	3/4/2013	9/25/2009
Maricopa County, AZ	10/16/2013	4/16/2013	10/22/2010
Lander County, NV	11/20/2013	5/20/2013	4/26/2012
Agua Fria PMR, Yavapai County, AZ	10/16/2014*	4/16/2014*	4/29/2013

Above is a listing of revised Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) since the previous RiskMAP Local ([Vol. 1 Issue 3](#)). Over 99 percent of the population of Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada have digital flood maps compatible with a Geographic Information System (GIS) and online viewing. With this primary goal of Flood Map Modernization achieved, flood mapping efforts have transitioned to delivering quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action that reduces risk.

FIRMs will continue to be revised under Risk MAP to reflect improved flood hazard data. Improved flood hazard data supports community-based actions and planning to advance mitigation measures that increase resilience. For more information on how you can advance mitigation measures in your community, please refer to the FEMA publication titled [Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards](#).

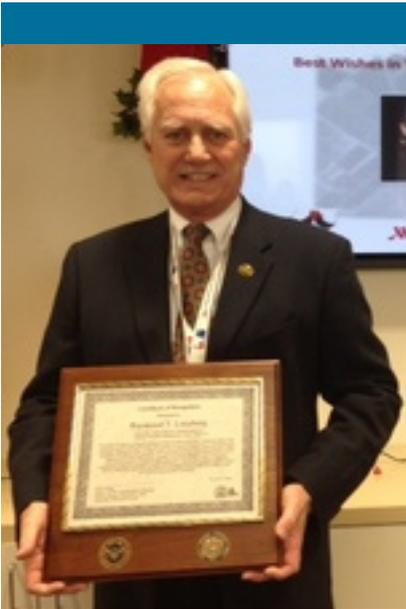
Flood Risk Awareness for Long Term Planning; FEMA and the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments Unite

A timely combination of extensive, mutually supportive planning activities in the Monterey Bay area of California has provided collaborative opportunities for FEMA Region IX and the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) to coordinate their efforts toward safer and more sustainable communities. AMBAG is leading a 2014 initiative called “*Moving Forward Monterey Bay*” whose goal is to contribute to an integrated long-range transportation and land-use plan that will support a growing economy, provide more housing and transportation choices, and reduce transportation-related pollution in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties. The initiative will suggest public policies and strategies, as well as projects and programs aimed at meeting the diverse mobility needs of the Monterey Bay region, and will involve the following activities:

1. Identify possible "areas within the region sufficient to house all the population of the region," where people will live for at least the next 25 years
2. Develop a transportation plan that meets the needs of the region
3. Reduce greenhouse-gas emissions (air pollution) from cars and light trucks
4. Address a host of other quality-of-life concerns

For *Moving Forward Monterey Bay*, AMBAG is working with the three county Regional Transportation Planning Agencies, local governments, key stakeholders, and the public to develop and evaluate a set of alternative transportation and land-use scenarios that support more sustainable communities. From these evolving choices, the AMBAG Board of Directors will select a preferred scenario. The planning directors of the local governments will meet monthly to provide input for *Moving Forward Monterey Bay* throughout the duration of the initiative.

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Ray Lenaburg, FEMA Region IX Branch Chief, retires after 30 years of dedicated public service.

For more than 37 years, Raymond T. Lenaburg, Chief, Risk Analysis (RA) Branch, has worked with FEMA and its predecessor agencies, joining the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1976. Ray was selected in 2007 to serve as the first Regional RA Branch Chief for Mitigation Division, FEMA Region IX- and led the implementation of the Risk Mapping, Assessment & Planning (MAP) national program to update risk awareness Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). Prior to joining the NFIP, Ray worked as an engineer with the United States Army Corps of Engineers Districts in Los Angeles and San Francisco, CA, with a total of 45 years of dedicated Federal service.

Within Region IX, Ray managed activities for flood hazard, levees and coastal analysis mapping; State/local and tribal multi-hazard mitigation planning; Hazus and building science coordination; National Tsunami and Dam Safety Programs; National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program – and Risk MAP. As an innovation in government, Risk MAP applied multi-hazard engineering science, advanced technology and detailed modeling to support risk reduction, western regional initiatives and community action measures supporting **Whole Community**.

As Senior Civil Engineer, Ray was appointed to the HQ engineering Integrated Program Team for implementation of the Map Modernization Program. He previously was assigned the high profile, congressionally mandated Colorado River Floodway Act Task Force; worked with the State of Hawaii elected leadership to achieve passage of the first Hawaii State Dam Safety Law; and was assigned to the State of California Governor’s Task Force for Floodplain Management - followed by serving on the Executive Committee for the State of California’s Alluvial Fan Task Force to develop policy and standards for risk mapping that are in effect today.

As Senior Engineer of the Community Mitigation Programs, Ray supervised over 600 Flood Insurance Studies in the states of Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii and the Pacific insular jurisdictions. Ray served with distinction on scores of challenging FEMA field assignments and disaster response/recovery operations throughout Region IX, and in several Joint Field Office operations across the United States. His field assignments included Hazard Mitigation Officer and Deputy Federal Coordinating Officer for Mitigation on California flooding disaster declarations, post fire/flood technical assessments as Team Leader, and provided contracting support for FEMA’s multi-million dollar housing contracts supporting major presidential disaster declarations.

Ray was frequently called upon to respond to urgent requests for external briefings, and community public meetings due to his extensive technical knowledge of hydraulics and hydrology as it relates to the production of digital FIRMs, with the ability to address mapping issues in non-engineering terms. His guiding principles of communication, teamwork, accountability, and technical proficiency established Region IX’s productivity for flood mapping performance as among the highest in the country. Ray’s distinguished accomplishments were recently recognized at the Floodplain Management Association Conference in Anaheim, CA as he was awarded the 2013 Karl Mohr Distinguished Service Award for National Activities. ●

<<< BW-12 updates

As noted in the BW-12 special edition of the [Risk MAP Local, August 2013](#), FEMA Region IX began hosting a series of BW-12 training sessions in Fall 2013 to prepare our stakeholders for the changes to the NFIP resulting from this legislation. These sessions are geared for insurance agents, lenders, realtors, appraisers, floodplain managers, and community officials. To stay informed on training opportunities and download presentation materials, please visit www.r9map.org/Pages/Professional-Development.aspx. If you or your community would like to request a training session in your area, please contact Edie Lohmann at Edith.Lohmann@fema.dhs.gov or (510) 627-7235.

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At the August 13, 2013, Planning Directors Forum for the *Moving Forward Monterey Bay* initiative, Ed Curtis, FEMA Region IX Engineer, discussed FEMA’s flood hazard mapping and mitigation efforts in the Monterey Bay area and how this ongoing Risk MAP project can help AMBAG and local governments become more resilient and sustainable. Meeting attendees were informed about FEMA’s Open Pacific Coast (OPC) Study, which will include coastal mapping updates in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties.

FEMA Region IX is also supporting Monterey County and its incorporated municipalities in updating the County’s comprehensive Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP).

The 2013-2014 MJHMP update process, led by Monterey County’s Office of Emergency Services, includes a collaborative partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Association of Counties.



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CA Preparedness, continued from Page 1

She reinforced the importance of investing in flood protection and acknowledging the city and County of Sacramento's participation in FEMA's Community Rating System to save money on flood insurance. Representative Matsui introduced Nancy Ward, the FEMA Region IX Regional Administrator and a Sacramento native and life-long resident.

Ms. Ward recognized Representative Matsui as one of the national heroes spearheading the struggle to balance safety and prudent planning in regard to recent development and water issues. She thanked the cities of Sacramento and Roseville for their willingness to support the "Know Your Line High Water Mark" campaign, a Federal interagency initiative to improve awareness of flood risk and encourage communities to take action to reduce future damage.

With California's diverse geography, the State contains three major types of floodplains—coastal, riverine, and alluvial fan. These conditions increase California's vulnerability to flooding and pose significant risk to public safety, the environment, and the economy. Every county in California has been declared a Federal flood disaster area at least once in the last 20 years.

Learn what you can do to help your community be aware and prepared by visiting the flood preparedness website at www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe/ca-flood-preparedness/fpw_home.cfm. Consider joining the cities of Sacramento and Roseville and sponsor a High Water Mark event in your community for next year's Flood Preparedness Week. If your community is interested in hosting a High Water Mark event visit, www.fema.gov/know-your-line-high-water-mark-initiative.

For more information about flood awareness and insurance, visit www.floodsmart.gov. ●

AMBAG, continued from Page 3

The update is being further guided by a planning team from multiple jurisdictions, including representatives from participating communities and other stakeholders. Heather Adamson, AMBAG's principal planner managing the *Moving Forward Monterey Bay* initiative, attended the MJHMP Kick-off meeting on August 1, 2013, to learn about the MJHMP and participate in developing the plan.

The information resulting from FEMA's Risk MAP OPC Study, as well as the maps and data in the Monterey County MJHMP, will provide a baseline for Monterey County's discussion of mitigation actions to implement regarding the coastal flooding (and other hazards) that affect the area's highways and byways and evacuation plans. Because the MJHMP is a hazard awareness plan with specific actions, it can inform land-use planning decisions by communities in the Monterey Bay area and identify safer areas to accommodate future growth. More importantly, the timeliness of these efforts has created avenues of partnership for FEMA and AMBAG to integrate hazard mitigation planning into comprehensive planning for a more holistic perspective on sustainability. As resources are always limited, combining hazard mitigation planning and regional/local comprehensive planning can help communities identify potential links to capital improvements and allow them to capitalize on the opportunity to overlay regional transportation goals and FEMA's Risk MAP goals in an efficient and effective manner. ●

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questions or comments >>>

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