

# FLOOD & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UPDATE



## House Approves Funding Bill, Including Corps of Engineers, Before August Recess

In one of their last actions before leaving the nation's capital to begin recess, House lawmakers approved a spending "minibus" bill that included four of the 12 needed appropriations bills for FY 2018. The new fiscal year begins on October 1. The House vote on the final package, which includes \$1.6 billion for the wall along the US Southern border, was 235-192. The House recess is set to last until after Labor Day, however, House Speaker Paul Ryan had indicated that the House could be called back into session if the Senate approved a health care bill.



Titled the Department of Defense Appropriations Act (H.R. 3219), the bill is also referred to as the "Make America Secure Appropriations Act." Included in the funding package is funding for the Department of Defense, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Energy and Water and the Legislative Branch.

FY 2018 funding under the House-approved bill for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (part of the Energy and Water Appropriations bill) would be set at \$6.1 billion. This figure represents an increase of \$120 million above the current fiscal year enacted level and \$1.16 billion above the President's budget request. According to the Appropriations Committee press release, "the bill focuses funding on activities that will have an immediate impact on public safety, job creation, and economic growth, including those that help increase the functionality of our ports and waterways." For example, the bill provides:

- **\$2.8 billion** for navigation projects and studies, including \$1.34 billion in funding from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and full use of estimated annual revenues from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, to help advance American competitiveness and export ability; and
- **\$1.8 billion** to support public health and safety by funding flood and storm damage reduction activities, an increase of \$74 million above fiscal year 2017 and \$424 million above the budget request.

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## Bureau of Reclamation Funding Set at \$1.24 Billion

Under H.R. 3219, the Bureau of Reclamation would receive \$1.24 billion, a reduction of \$79 million below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$132 million above the President's request. Included in the bill is \$83 million for the second year of funding for water storage, desalination, and water recycling and reuse projects authorized in the WIIN Act.

## Senate Remains In Session, At Least for Now

Keeping his promise that the Senate will remain in session into the scheduled August recess, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has Senate lawmakers in town at least through this week and possibly through next week as well. It is unclear at this time what the floor priorities will be, although tax reform has been mentioned as a possibility as well as pending Administration nominations. Key nominations such as the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as judicial and Federal Labor Relations Board nominations have already been under consideration this week.

One of those key individuals waiting for floor consideration of her nomination is Susan Bodine, who has been nominated to serve as EPA's new enforcement chief. An experienced water and natural resources attorney with an incredibly strong legislative background, Susan has currently been serving as Majority Counsel for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

She previously served under the Bush Administration as an Assistant Administrator over Superfund and other hazardous waste issues, in addition to serving a prior tenure on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and before that with the House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee.

## WOTUS Policy Provisions Included

The funding bill approved by the House on July 27 also included policy provisions relating to the Waters of the US Rule that were adopted despite minority efforts to remove them from the bill. The provisions authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the Army to withdraw the controversial 2015 Waters of the United States rule; and also restrict the application of the Clean Water Act in certain agricultural areas, including farm ponds and irrigation ditches.

## National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization Bills Still Await Action



In the House, the pending National Flood Insurance Programs bills did not make it to the House floor before recess fueling speculation that some type of extension could be needed so that the

program doesn't expire on September 30. Details on the House bill were provided in the July 24 Update.

To date, markup has not been scheduled on the Senate bill (S. 1571), which was introduced by Senate Banking Committee Chair Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) on July 17. To access the legislation, go to [www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1571](http://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1571).

There's still a chance that markup of the bill could be scheduled before Senators leave for the August recess, but it was reported early this week that provisions in the committee bill that address western wildfires may slow down action on the measure. Louisiana Senators Bill Cassidy (D) and John Kennedy (D) have reported that sessions that would have allowed them an opportunity to offer amendments on the bill have been delayed indefinitely.

If the senate remains in session, there is a chance the NFIP markup could be hold next week.

NAFSMA will keep members updated on actions on both the Senate and House NFIP bills.

## NAFSMA to Prepare Comments on WOTUS Phase One Rule – **Deadline is August 28**

Following up on the joint Federal Register Notice published by the Department of the Army and U.S. EPA on July 27, NAFSMA will be filing comments on this first of two steps to review and revise the Waters of the US rulemaking. NAFSMA also submitted comments in mid-June on this issue in response to an earlier federalism effort.

NAFSMA members are asked to share any comments they have on this issue with the national office at [sgilson@nafsma.org](mailto:sgilson@nafsma.org) and to let the association know if you are interested in helping to draft comments. To find out more about the rule's release and to access a copy of the July 27 proposed rule go to [www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/07/27/2017-13997/definition-of-waters-of-the-united-states-recodification-of-pre-existing-rules](http://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/07/27/2017-13997/definition-of-waters-of-the-united-states-recodification-of-pre-existing-rules).

## NAFSMA to Request Examples of Section 408 Flood Control Permissions

As part of the efforts of NAFSMA's Levee Subcommittee (note new Levee Subcommittee Issues Paper was provided with the July 24 Flood and Stormwater Management Update), NAFSMA is requesting examples of Section 408 permissions from the membership. Please look for an email request very soon that asks you to identify the types of activities for which your agency is seeking a Section 408 permission; indicating that the proposed change is coming from the non-federal partner or other entity; the length of time it has taken, or is expected to take for review of that permission request; and the costs associated with seeking the permission. You will not be asked to identify the project or agency submitting the information and NAFSMA will not be providing this information in its compilation.

## NAFSMA Membership Establishes New Advisory Board



On a recommendation by NAFSMA's Board of Directors, the membership voted during the Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, June 29, to establish a new Advisory Board for the association. The role of the new advisory group will be to provide nonbinding strategic advice to the NAFSMA leadership.

Members of the new Advisory Board will be nominated by the Executive Committee and elected by the Board of Directors on a majority vote. NAFSMA members from either the public or private sectors can participate on the Advisory Board, which will include experts in flood risk, floodplain and stormwater management and/or regulatory, legislative and legal issues. An advisor must be a member in good standing when nominated and for the duration of their term, which shall be for two years.

The Advisory Board may be called upon to participate in special meetings as needed. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, members of the Advisory Board may be asked to cast a vote on certain issues.

If you are interested in being considered for nomination to the NAFSMA Advisory Board, please contact Executive Director Susan Gilson at 202-289-9-8625 or [sgilson@nafsma.org](mailto:sgilson@nafsma.org). The new Advisory Board is expected to be up and running this Fall.



# FEMA Risk MAP and Mitigation Updates

## FEMA Issues Update to Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping Guidance



FEMA's Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration has issued updated Guidance and Technical Reference documents that it uses in its flood mapping and risk analysis program. This spring 2017 maintenance cycle updated technical references and guidance documents to align with the Mapping Information Platform (MIP) redesign project completed in June. There were no standards updates as part of this cycle.

The MIP is the central system of record that FEMA uses to manage flood risk projects for Risk MAP. The changes to the MIP and related guidance affect mapping partners working on flood risk projects who are required to track status and

submit deliverables via the MIP. There were 3 technical reference updates, 14 guidance updates, and 1 new transformed guidance that had additional updates to align with the MIP redesign. Most of these updates were minor, however a few documents had significant updates including new information that will be tracked in the MIP, changes to the MIP folder structure, new data submission methods, and entering leverage data in the MIP.

FEMA regularly updates these guidance and technical reference documents to ensure ongoing improvements in its flood mapping and risk analysis efforts. The primary location to access Risk MAP standards and guidance is [www.fema.gov/guidelines-and-standards-flood-risk-analysis-and-mapping](http://www.fema.gov/guidelines-and-standards-flood-risk-analysis-and-mapping).

See Appendix B in the standards for definitions of the acronyms and abbreviations below.

A summary of the changes to guidance and technical references is below:

### Substantial Updates:

**Mapping Information Platform (MIP) Guidance:** A nearly complete overhaul to reflect the MIP redesign with new content to present updated terminology, new and revised tools, new purchase types, new upload capabilities, new project setup instructions, revised workbench information, new reports, and new studies workflow diagrams. The overhaul also includes removal of outdated content.

**Data Capture General Guidance:** Updated to remove many of the work-arounds from the old version of the MIP and update data capture information to reflect the new MIP design. Includes new folder structure and Certification of Compliance of Submitted Data Form (i.e. to be used for aerial mapping, hydrology, hydraulics, alluvial fans, coastal and regulatory products required under existing standards).

**Data Capture–Workflow Guidance:** Extensive revisions to reflect new MIP data capture tasks, folder structure, etc. New content and/or comprehensive revisions for many of the new features that were updated in the MIP including discovery, post preliminary data capture, new terrain/topographic data capture, flood risk products data capture, LAMP data submittals, and general data purchases.

# FEMA Risk MAP and Mitigation Updates (cont'd)

**Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Database Technical Reference:** Updated to reflect redesigned MIP elements:

- Comprehensive updates to reflect new terminology, MIP Task Names, and MIP Purchases
- Section 4, Table 2 “FIRM Database Table Deliverables by MIP Data Capture Task” – comprehensively updated to reflect new MIP task names
- Table “S\_Topo\_Confidence” – guidance information updated to reflect documentation of topographic data versus terrain data, per redesigned MIP task names and content

**Data Capture Technical Reference:** Updated to reflect MIP redesign elements including:

- Mapping Information Platform (MIP) studies updates and new data upload processes and terminology
- Flood Elevation Determination Docket (FEDD) as final deliverable
- Validation and Independent Quality Assurance (QA)/Quality Control (QC) folders for all Data Capture purchases
- Added Levee, Outreach, Due Process, and General purchases and task folders.

**Geospatial Data Coordination (GDC) Guidance:** Updated to remove outdated MIP workflow content (e.g. scoping) and a comprehensive update to all items pertaining to the entry of leverage data and how to classify it, as well as changes to the GDC reporting logic and report names.]

**Preliminary Distribution and Revised Preliminary Guidance:** Updated to add new content for how to create and manage the Revised Preliminary Project in the MIP, including completing the data development tasks and issuing the Revised Preliminary Regulatory Products. Added content for the Preliminary and Revised Preliminary Summary of Map Action (SOMA), specifically for working within the MIP workflow and the new SOMA tool.

**Post-Preliminary Deliverables Guidance:** Updated to reflect MIP change that all FEDD file components (including final compilation), 90/30 day letters, and revalidation letters will be uploaded. Additionally, outlines requirements for Appeal Initiation and documentation, Record Appeal, and Comment Processing and Tracking steps in MIP. Outlines the requirements for various deliverables related to LFDs.

## Guidance Transformation:

**SOMA and Revalidation Letters Guidance:** First time publication of this guidance, providing new content for capturing the Letters of Map Change (LOMC) locations with regards to the redesigned Community LOMC List Report. Created content for LOMC categorization, specifically as it relates to the new SOMA categories “2a and 2b”. Also provided information on working with the MIP SOMA tool, creating the Preliminary or Revised Preliminary and Final SOMAs, and completing the Revalidation MIP Export.

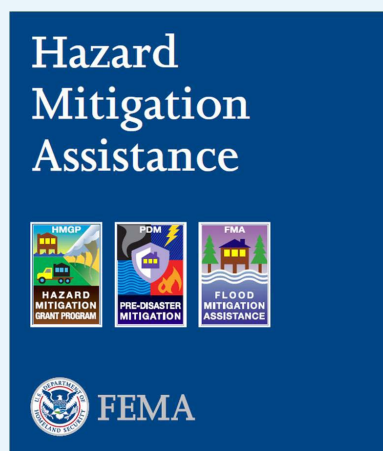
## Minor Updates:

Update terminology, figures, and/or minor workflow steps to align w/ redesigned MIP elements.

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|--|---|
| • Appeal and Comment Processing Guidance                           | • Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Database Guidance |
| • Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS) Technical Reference | • Key Decision Point (KDP) Process Guidance         |
| • Database Verification Tool (DVT) Guidance                        | • Letter of Final Determination (LFD) Guidance      |
| • Discovery Guidance   | • Metadata Guidance                                 |
|  | • Post-Preliminary Due Process Guidance             |

# FEMA Risk MAP and Mitigation Updates (cont'd)

## External Stakeholders Group Asks for Hazard Mitigation Success Stories



In January 2017, FEMA launched the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) External Stakeholder Workgroup (ESWG). The HMA ESWG is comprised of representatives from FEMA regions, states, Indian tribes, territories, and local mitigation stakeholders who share their perspectives on HMA priorities, issues, and program resources, and help inform communication strategies on the HMA programs.

As part of carrying out their work, the ESWG members have formed subgroups to focus on specific topics. One subgroup, the Online HMA Knowledge and Support Forum, is working to create an online resource where information can be exchanged, conversations encouraged, and HMA applicants can find peer-to-peer advice and guidance. One aspect of this work is identify and promote HMA project success stories. As part of this, the ESWG is requesting mitigation stakeholders submit success stories in your community, your organization, or a partner in mitigation you've met along the way.

### We are looking for success stories with the following in mind:

1. The success story should not exceed one page.
2. Please include pertinent and descriptive facts, such as the organization/community name, project description, date of completion, and the HMA grant amount and program (e.g. HMGP, FMA, PDM).
3. Projects submitted as success stories should have been completed within the last 18 months.
4. The ESWG is looking for all types of projects, big and small, and for any hazard type to help encourage a wide range of application submittals.
5. Personal aspects of the project are encouraged including stories illustrating the positive impacts of the mitigation on the community and/or residents. Examples of this could be an interview with a resident that has benefited from the project, or an account of how the project will avoid disruptions in the community or help speed a post-disaster recovery.
6. The success story should make sure to include the URL address/link, if available, for more information and photos on the project. If a URL is not available, please include the info for a point of contact who can answer questions about the project if needed.
7. Photos or other graphics of the project should be attached to the same email and submitted along with the success story.

**Please submit all success stories by Tuesday, August 15, 2017 to [fema-hma-grants-policy@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-hma-grants-policy@fema.dhs.gov).**

Please note that all submittals will be provided to the ESWG for review and further use. FEMA is providing support for the ESWG to facilitate the submittal of these success stories. The ESWG will determine the success stories selected for further promotion.