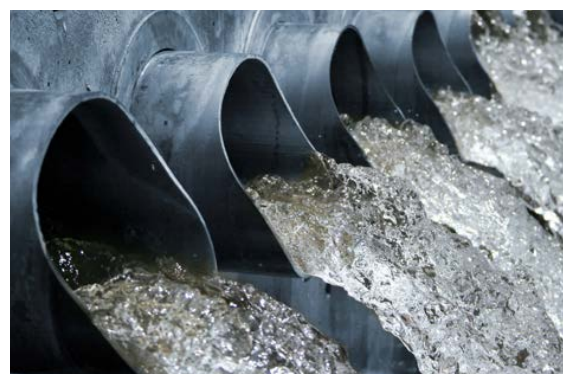


FLOOD & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UPDATE



EPA Announces \$6 Billion To Be Available for WIFIA Loans This Year

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on March 29th announced that approximately \$6 billion in credit assistance will be available to leverage over \$12 billion in water infrastructure projects through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) in 2019. According to EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, "through WIFIA, we are addressing several of President Trump's top priorities simultaneously: modernizing our nation's aging infrastructure, improving public health protections, and creating jobs."



Construction-ready projects, in the areas of water reuse and recycling, reducing exposure to lead and addressing emerging contaminants, and updating aging infrastructure, are being prioritized in this round of the program.

The pre-publication [notice of funding availability](#) for the WIFIA program and other details on the program, including upcoming webinars and informational sessions can be found at www.epa.gov/wifia. EPA will accept Letters of Interest for 90 days following the publication of the notice of funding availability in the Federal Register. As of April 4th, that notice had yet to be published in the Federal Register.

WIFIA, established in 2014, is a federal loan and guarantee program at EPA that aims to accelerate investment in the nation's water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant water infrastructure projects. To date, EPA has issued eight loans totaling over \$2 billion in WIFIA credit assistance to help finance over \$4 billion for water infrastructure projects and create 180,000 jobs.

EPA's WIFIA program can help to finance a broad range of projects including the following:

- Drinking water treatment and distribution;
- Wastewater conveyance and treatment;
- Enhanced energy efficiency projects at drinking water and wastewater facilities;
- Desalination, aquifer recharge, alternative water supply, and water recycling projects; and
- Drought prevention, reduction or mitigation projects.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
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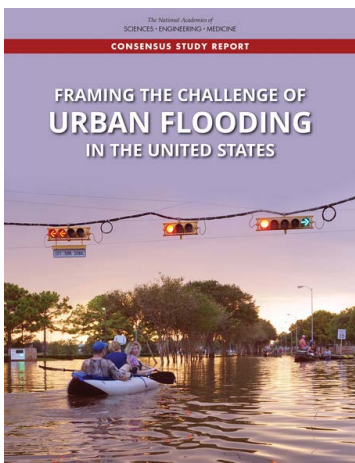
A similar program was authorized for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2014 but that initiative has yet to get up and running although USACE is reported to be working with EPA on implementation. WIFIA was established under the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA).

EPA will be hold two webinars, on April 17th and April 30th both at 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET, to provide information on how to prepare and submit a letter of interest and the selection process. Three in-person information sessions have also been scheduled in Atlanta, GA on May 8th; Washington, DC on May 13th and Phoenix, AZ on May 23rd. ■

Vice Chair of the House Water Resources Subcommittee Announced

Reps. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA), chair of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, on April 4th announced that Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-FL) will serve as the new Vice Chair of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. Vice Chair Mucarsel-Powell, who was elected in 2018 and assumed office this year, represents Florida's 26th District serving western Miami-Dade County.

New Report on Urban Flooding Released



The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine on March 29th released its report on urban flooding titled [Framing the Challenge of Urban Flooding in the United States](#). The report describes urban flooding as a complex and distinct kind of flooding, compounded by land use and high population density, and it requires a different approach to assess and manage.

The committee was chaired by David R. Maidment, the Hussein M. Alharthy Centennial Chair in Civil Engineering at the University of Texas. In releasing the report, Mr. Maidment noted that "In order to better understand and manage urban flooding, each city must take into account its built and natural

environment, the impacts on people, information available to understand or communicate flood events, and the mix of local, state and federal policies in force."

The cities of Baltimore, Chicago, Houston and Phoenix were selected by the committee to examine the urban flooding issue. Findings in the report indicate that each city has a unique flood hazard and addresses it with a tailored mix of resources.

The press release announcing the report's release states that "within cities, flooding results when the inflow of stormwater exceeds the capacity of a drainage system to infiltrate water into the soil or to carry it away."

The study, which was sponsored by FEMA, recommends that a new generation of flood maps and visualizations be developed to communicate flood risks in urban areas.

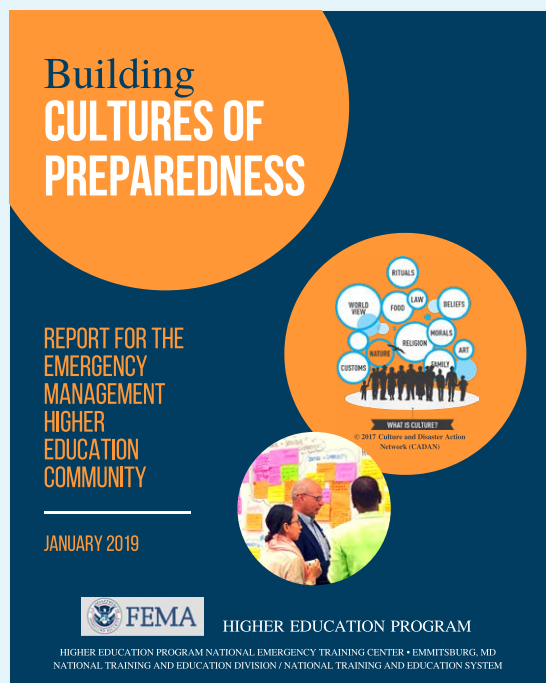
NAFSMA leadership and its Floodplain Management Committee will be reviewing the NAS urban flooding report.

WOTUS Comments Due on Monday, April 15, 2019

NAFSMA members are reminded that comments on the February 14th, 2019, proposed rulemaking to revise the definition of "Waters of the United States" are due on or before Monday, April 15th. NAFSMA is preparing comments on the proposed rule to submit in advance of the impending deadline.

Many thanks to all who have helped to shape NAFSMA's comments, which have been developed during two working calls of close to 90 minutes each. If your agency is preparing comments, please share those comments with the national office at sgilson@nafsma.org.

Silver Jackets To Hold Webinar on Building a Culture of Preparedness — April 16, 2019



The USACE-led Silver Jackets program will hold a webinar on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 (2 p.m. ET) highlighting the findings and recommendations contained in a new report published by the FEMA Higher Education Program, titled [“Building Cultures of Preparedness.”](#)

A key finding in the report indicates that a culture-based approach to the community and household-level preparedness goals laid out in FEMA’s 2018-2022 Strategic Plan can help the nation achieve its new resilience goals.

The webinar will be presented by the authors of the report. For more information, contact: IWR.SilverJackets@usace.army.mil.

Beta Version of Searchable Federal Flood Risk Management Programs Web Site Available



The USACE National Flood Risk Management Program, in coordination with a variety of other Federal Agencies, late last year launched the beta version of the “Federal Flood Risk Management Programs” web site. The web site provides summaries of 120 Federal programs across 11 federal agencies that relate in some way to flood risk management. Users can search for the programs most relevant to their needs using filters such as potential program APPLICANT, flood risk management cycle PHASE, and TYPE of assistance being sought. Search results provide summaries of Federal programs and links to additional information about each program.

With release of this beta version, the development team is both sharing information about the programs and looking for feedback. Please check out the site, share it with others, and provide constructive feedback so we can make the next version even better! Access the website at <https://ffrmp.nfrmp.us>.

NFIP Launches Spring Wave Insurance Marketing Effort



Spring flooding season is around the corner.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently issued its Spring Outlook, which estimates the potential for flooding in specific geographies throughout the season. Streamflow and soil moisture are already well above normal in the Ohio River Valley Basin and lower Mississippi Valley, indicating an increased risk for flood. Flooding is expected this spring in these regions as well as the in the Illinois and Missouri River Basins.

On Monday, March 18th the National Flood Insurance Program launched new digital and radio ads in the 11 markets listed below to encourage residents to purchase flood insurance:

- Cedar Rapids, IA
- Waterloo, IA
- Quad Cities, IA
- Charleston, WV
- Jackson, MS
- Lexington-Fayette, KY
- Monroe, LA
- Evansville, IN
- Louis, MO
- Grand Rapids, MI
- La Crosse, WI

The goal is to raise awareness about the risks of spring flooding and encourage residents to purchase a flood insurance policy to protect the life they've built. To amplify these marketing efforts, the NFIP is looking for help get the message out. Click the link for access to a toolkit of online and offline resources to help spread the word: <https://agents.floodsmart.gov/springflood>.

New USGS Study Released on Water Quality Over the Last Five Decades

The U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) National Water Quality Program on March 21st released a report on the **regional patterns of anthropogenic influences on streams and rivers in the conterminous United States, from the early 1970s to 2012**.

According to a [the study](#), some of the major human influences on water quality, in particular the ways we use land, water, and chemicals, have undergone dramatic changes over the last five decades. Patterns of urbanization, chemical use, and agricultural production are profoundly altered.

Some U.S. urban and agricultural areas and practices are almost unrecognizable from the way they were in the 1970s. From 1974 to 2012, urban areas increased by almost 70% (50 million acres), with the greatest growth in low-density "exurban" residential areas. Crop production increased 114% while cropland area increased only 23%, reflecting a vast growth in agricultural productivity. Animal production, particularly of hogs and pigs,

became much more concentrated—the number of hog and pig farms decreased from a half million in 1974 to 63,000 by 2012, yet the number of hogs and pigs increased 45%.

The USGS study assessed a total of 61 human influences in 16 categories, including land use, agricultural practices, and population density. Some of the changes in those influences reflect regulatory actions. For example, from 1974 to 2012 there was a widespread and rapid increase in the use of the herbicide glyphosate with concurrent decreases in other herbicides resulting from their regulatory phaseout. Another example was the widespread decrease in atmospheric deposition of sulfate related in part to the Clean Air Act.

This publication provides comprehensive maps and summary statistics for the 61 human influences considered. Information on how major potential influences on water quality have changed over time provides a foundation for research to quantify the effects on water quality in U.S. rivers and streams.



NAFSMA's awards programs, which are carried out under a mentoring agreement with FEMA, are open to all public agencies, and private firms working with a public agency, on communications efforts for flood risk or water quality or a stormwater management green infrastructure project. NAFSMA members and non-members are invited to apply.

The deadline for 2019 submissions is 11:59 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, May 15th. Projects must be completed by May 1, 2019 to be considered.

This year's award winners will be announced at NAFSMA's 2019 Flood and Stormwater Management Conference on August 20–22, 2019, at Terranea, in Los Angeles, CA (Rancho Palos Verdes).

NAFSMA Members Urged To Prepare Their 2019 Awards Programs Submissions

NAFSMA's 2019 Excellence in Communications on Flood Risk Awareness and Water Quality as well as its Green Infrastructure in Stormwater Management Awards programs are officially open. Online applications, as well as more detailed descriptions of the awards programs, are available at www.nafsma.org. All submissions are to be made electronically.

The Excellence in Communications Awards Program highlights award winning communication and outreach programs and provides examples of successful initiatives addressing flood awareness, pollution prevention and environmental protection that are taking place across the United States.

A video showcasing the 2018 award winners is available on the NAFSMA website as are photos of last year's outstanding awards and winners. A similar video will be prepared and made available for the 2019 award winners so get those applications ready. Don't miss this opportunity to highlight your community's unique and successful flood risk and water quality initiatives

For more information, contact Sofia Chatos at schatos@nafsma.org or 301-404-1332. You can also contact Dusty Williams to discuss the Green Infrastructure awards program at dustyw2015@gmail.com or (951) 313-0257 or Susan Gilson at the NAFSMA national office at sgilson@nafsma.org or 202-289-8625.

Important Dates

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 Midnight Eastern

Deadline for Submission of Entries for NAFSMA's 2019 Excellence in Communications and Stormwater Management Green Infrastructure Online Awards Submissions – Online applications are available at www.nafsma.org.

August 19 – 22, 2019

NAFSMA 2019 Annual Flood and Stormwater Management Conference - Los Angeles (Rancho Palos Verdes), CA
Online registration, preliminary agenda and hotel reservation link for Terranea available at www.nafsma.org