



# NEVADA

## Flood Management News

Spring 2004

Nevada Division of Water Resources

Volume 7, Issue 1

### Inside this issue:

Mitigation Money Available 1

PDM Grants ..... 2-3

FMA Planning Grants ..... 3

Is Your Floodplain Manager Certified?..... 4

Evolution of the Elevation Certificate..... 5

No Adverse Impact Toolkit . 5

New Dam Safety Regulations ..... 5

New on the NDWR Website 6

Training Calendar..... 7

### Share Your Success Stories

We invite you to share your successful floodplain management strategies with our readers.

Please forward your story to:

**Nevada Division of Water Resources**  
123 West Nye Lane  
Suite 246  
Carson City, NV 89706-0818  
[groenewd@water.nv.gov](mailto:groenewd@water.nv.gov)

### NEVADA FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

## Mitigation Money Available

According to FEMA mitigation is the cornerstone of emergency management. It's the ongoing effort to lessen the impact disasters have on people's lives and property through damage prevention and flood insurance. Through measures such as, building safely within the floodplain or removing homes altogether, engineering buildings and infrastructures to withstand flood forces, and creating and enforcing effective building codes to protect property from floods and other natural hazards, the impact on lives and communities is lessened.



*Guerneville, CA, April 23, 1998 -- Mitigated (elevated) home along the Russian River. FEMA News Photo*

FEMA makes federal money available to states and local communities for mitigation planning and projects through three mitigation grant programs: the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program (PDM), and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program. Because flooding is identified in Nevada's State Hazard Mitigation Plan as the most significant natural hazard Nevadans face, mitigation projects to address flood hazards should merit serious consideration by FEMA and the State for mitigation grant awards.

This issue of Nevada Flood Management News focuses on two of FEMA's three mitigation grant programs: the Pre-Disaster Mitigation and the Flood Mitigation Assistance grant programs (the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program makes mitigation funds available only in the wake of a federally declared disaster). I encourage Nevada cities and counties to consider what can be done to minimize or prevent flood damage within their communities and to apply for mitigation grant money through the one of FEMA's mitigation grant programs.

*Kim Groenewold, Program Officer  
Floodplain Management Program*

## Apply for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants through the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

The State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management can compete for Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant money that may be distributed to eligible Sub-applicants for the 2004 Federal Fiscal year ending September 30th.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program was authorized by §203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act (Stafford Act), 42 USC, as amended by §102 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. PDM grants are available to assist States and local governments (including Indian Tribal governments) in implementing cost-effective hazard mitigation activities that complement a comprehensive mitigation program.

### Who Can Apply

Eligible Sub-applicants include State agencies; Federally-recognized Indian Tribal governments; and local governments. Private non-profit organizations are not eligible to apply for PDM money but may ask the appropriate local government to submit an application for the proposed activity on their behalf.

All Sub-applicants must be participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) if they have been identified through the NFIP as having Special Flood Hazard Areas. In addition, the community must not be suspended or on probation from the NFIP.

### Eligible Projects

Mitigation planning and mitigation

projects are eligible activities, including information dissemination activities regarding cost-effective mitigation technologies related to the proposed mitigation planning activity or project.

Mitigation projects should primarily focus on natural hazards but also may address hazards caused by non-natural forces. The following are eligible mitigation projects:

- Minor structural hazard control or protection projects that may include vegetation management, storm water management (e.g., culverts, floodgates, retention basins), or shoreline/landslide stabilization;
- Localized flood control projects, such as certain ring levees and floodwall systems, that are designed specifically to protect critical facilities and that do not



*Quinland, WV, June 30, 2003 -- This home, elevated above the Base Flood Elevation, received no damage during the recent flooding here. The flooding devastated much of the rest of the homes in the neighborhood. Photo by Liz Roll/FEMA News Photo*

- Acquisition or relocation of hazard-prone property for conversion to open space in perpetuity;
- Structural and non-structural retrofitting of existing buildings and facilities (including designs and feasibility studies when included as part of the construction project) for wildfire, seismic, wind or flood hazards (e.g., elevation, flood proofing, storm shutters, hurricane clips);

constitute a section of a larger flood control system.

Mitigation projects that are *not* eligible are major flood control projects, engineering designs that are not integral to a proposed project, feasibility studies that are not integral to a proposed project, flood studies or flood mapping, and response communication equipment.

## FMA Planning Grants to Communities

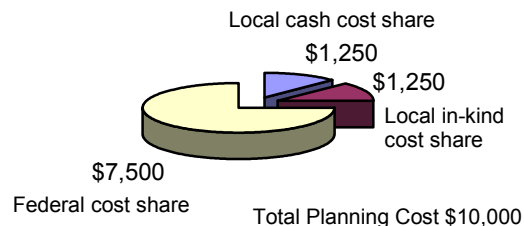
Right now \$22,300 in Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) planning grant money is available through the Nevada Floodplain Management Program to assist Nevada communities in developing and updating flood mitigation plans. Nevada communities participating in the NFIP are eligible to apply.

### **Some reasons your community may want to consider an FMA planning grant:**

- A community must have a FEMA-approved multi-hazard mitigation plan to be eligible for Pre-Disaster Mitigation project grant money. An FMA planning grant can assist with development of the flood portion of the required multi-hazard mitigation plan.
- Credit is provided to communities participating in the Community Rating System (CRS) for preparing, adopting, implementing, evaluating, and updating a comprehensive flood mitigation plan.
- FMA planning grants from more than one NFIP community can be combined to develop a multi-jurisdictional flood mitigation plan.
- Up to 75% of an FMA planning grant can be FEMA funds, and ½ of the 25% local match may be in-kind contributions.

For information on FMA planning grants in Nevada, contact Kim Groenewold, (775) 687-4380, extension 232, [groenewd@water.nv.gov](mailto:groenewd@water.nv.gov). General information on FMA grants and FEMA publication 299 entitled "Flood Mitigation Assistance Guidance" may be found on the FEMA website at [www.fema.gov/fima/fma.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/fima/fma.shtm).

### **Example Funding for FMA Planning Grant**



## Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants (continued)

### **Grant Requirements and Restrictions**

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. Mitigation projects must conform with the current FEMA-approved State Hazard Mitigation Plan and a FEMA-approved local multi-hazard mitigation plan. FEMA approval of a local multi-hazard mitigation plan is required before PDM project money can be accepted by an applicant.

FEMA will contribute up to 75 percent of the total amount approved under the grant award to implement the approved activities. At least 25 percent of the total eligible costs must be provided from a non-Federal source. Small, impoverished communities may receive up to 90 percent of the total amount

approved under the grant award to implement approved activities.

A Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) is required for all mitigation projects; however, a BCA is not required for planning activities. Mitigation projects without a BCA or with a benefit-cost ratio less than 1.0 will not be considered for the PDM competitive grant program.

### **Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee**

The Nevada Division of Emergency Management has established an advisory board known as the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee to recommend eligible projects to the Division that merit PDM funding. The Board of Directors of the Committee consists of thirteen Directors that represent state, local,

and regional, multi-jurisdictional governmental agencies and the private sector. The Committee Chair is Jon Price, State Geologist and Director of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology.

### **For More Information . . .**

For general information and guidance on applying for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants, go to the FEMA website at [www.fema.gov/fima/pdm.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/fima/pdm.shtm).

Eligible Nevada communities seeking PDM grant funding should also contact the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee: Jon Price, (775) 784-6691 ext 126, [jprice@unr.edu](mailto:jprice@unr.edu).



# Is Your Floodplain Manager Certified?

In the early 1990's, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina was facing the possibility of being placed on probation (by FEMA) for failing to comply with their obligations under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). City staff attended courses sponsored by the State and FEMA and became knowledgeable about floodplain management and their community's responsibilities under the NFIP. Mount Pleasant is now not only in good standing with the NFIP, but is an active participant in the Community Rating System which has reduced the flood insurance premiums in the Town because of its exemplary floodplain management program.

## **A Well Trained Staff Pays Off**

Mount Pleasant is only one of hundreds of cases that have demonstrated how well-trained staff pays off. As a result, floodplain development is better managed, flood losses are reduced, property owners are better protected, there is compliance with State and Federal programs, and residents enjoy lower insurance premiums.

The Certified Floodplain Manager Program was established by the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) in 1999. The emphasis of the Program is on knowing the fundamentals of flood mapping, managing floodplain development, national and state standards, and how to apply them to a locally administered program. CFMs®

have been defined as people "*who know their stuff.*"

## **Become a CFM®**

To become a CFM®, a person should study the basics of floodplain management. These are found in courses conducted by FEMA, the states, and ASFPM. The best single reference is the course material used for FEMA's course Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program. The course is available to all NFIP community officials and staff through the week long course E273 at the Emergency Management Institute. Materials for the same course are available as an independent study course IS-9 which can be accessed on the ASFPM website [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org).

The CFM® exam is offered many times throughout the year at locations around the country, often in conjunction with a state training program or conference. The exam is three hours long and covers the gamut of topics that the local administrator needs to know. Application forms are available on the ASFPM website. If several applicants wish to take the exam at the same time they may request that the State Floodplain Manager proctor the exam.

The CFM® Program has become an integral part of floodplain management around the country. Today the program boasts over 1,400 certified professional nationwide. Some

communities have received additional credit under the NFIP Community Rating System for having CFM® professionals on staff.

For more information on the CFM® Program, contact: Anita Larson,

## **CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS IN NEVADA**

**Altman, Stephen**, Las Vegas  
**Badger, Lenny**, Las Vegas  
**Baird, Matt**, Henderson  
**Casmus, Stephen**, North Las Vegas  
**Chandler, Warren**, Henderson  
**Chu, Peilung**, Henderson  
**Corbridge, Kimble**, Sparks  
**Damiani, Joseph**, Henderson  
**Doody, Jennifer**, North Las Vegas  
**Eubanks, Kevin**, Las Vegas  
**Givlin, John**, Carson City  
**Gookin, Mark**, Reno  
**Groenewold, Kim**, Reno  
**Hamade, Ghaith**, Henderson  
**Hayslip, Jon**, Las Vegas  
**Hone, Kalvan**, Las Vegas  
**Jackson, Peter**, Las Vegas  
**Loffman, Brian**, Las Vegas  
**Lowe, Dale**, Las Vegas  
**Luquette, Christopher**, Las Vegas  
**Manning, John**, Henderson  
**Nhipali, Janie**, Las Vegas  
**Pierko, Julia**, Reno  
**Ruefer, Jeanne**, Carson City  
**Waters, Dustin**, Reno

ASFPM, 2809 Fish Hatchery Road, Madison, WI 53713, (608) 274-0123, fax: (608) 274-0696, email: [memberhelp@floods.org](mailto:memberhelp@floods.org), website: [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org).



## Evolution of the Elevation Certificate

FEMA Form 81-31, the Elevation Certificate, is an important administrative tool of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Elevation Certificate is used to provide information necessary to ensure compliance with community floodplain management ordinances, to determine the proper insurance premium rate, and to support a request for a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) or Letter of Map Revision based on fill (LOMR-F).

The Elevation Certificate itself has undergone several iterations in recent years. The files of the Nevada Floodplain Management Program include four versions of the Elevation Certificate, the earliest dated May 1993. Henry Chau at FEMA Region IX reports that to his knowledge the Elevation Certificate has been around since

the late 1970's and was originally a one page form, 8 1/2" x 14" in size.

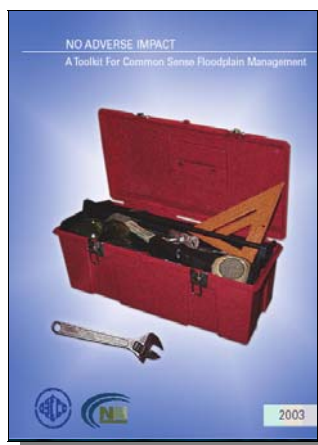
The current version of the form, dated January 2003, has an expiration date of December 31, 2005 and comprises two 8 1/2" x 11" pages. Last fall FEMA convened a work group to revisit the Elevation Certificate once again and to consider possible improvements to the form. Based on an article in the November 2003 issue of *Professional Surveyor* by Wendy Lathrop, who is also participating in FEMA's work group, significant changes to the Elevation Certificate may be on the horizon.

One of the proposed changes is a requirement to include at least two photographs with the completed Elevation Certificate. Requirements concerning the sides of the building photographed

and the angle of the photographs are still under discussion. This change would likely bring the length of the Elevation Certificate to a three page form.

Another proposed change concerns requirements for recording the elevation and square footage of crawl spaces on the Elevation Certificate. Ms. Lathrop reported that this proposal precipitated a great deal of discussion among the work group. "... Insurance companies and agents were concerned about adding to the cost of the Elevation Certificate and lengthening the time to complete it," says Ms. Lathrop.

FEMA's Elevation Certificate Work Group consists of representatives from the insurance industry, FEMA, and surveying and floodplain management interests.



## "No Adverse Impact—A Toolkit For Common Sense Floodplain Management"

This recent publication by the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) provides numerous examples and practical advice for community officials striving for a higher standard of floodplain management.

The State of Nevada Floodplain Management Program is committed to implementation of the basic standards of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in each of the 34 local communities in Nevada that participate in the NFIP. The minimum floodplain management criteria are required in order for communities to be eligible for flood insurance, certain types of disaster assistance, and other federal support. However, ASFPM points out that NFIP's minimum requirements often do not provide sufficient protection from all local flood hazards nor do they account for the effects of urbanization on future flood levels.

ASFPM encourages local communities to recognize the need to go beyond national and state minimums and take charge of their own flooding issues. For more information on No Adverse Impact go to the ASFPM website at [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org). The NAI Toolkit can be ordered from ASFPM for \$10 each; call (608) 274-0123 or email [asfpm2@floods.org](mailto:asfpm2@floods.org).

## New Nevada Dam Safety Regulations

The Division of Water Resources has adopted new Safety of Dam Regulations. The dam safety regulations are under Nevada Administrative Code § 535.

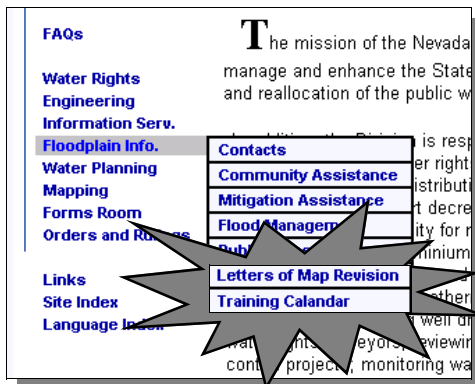
"We are planning 'roll-out' meetings in the near future for those dam owners and individuals interested in dam safety," says Robert Martinez, Chief of Engineering and Dam Safety. "The meetings will cover various aspects of the regulation and focus on Emergency Action Plans. Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) are now a requirement for dam owners whose dam is classified as either 'high' or 'significant' hazard. Owners must file and receive approval of their EAP by this office."

The purpose of the EAP is that if an event of catastrophic nature occurs the dam owner has a plan to follow for notification of local authorities, emergency personnel, and the downstream community.

For additional information regarding dam safety, please contact Robert Martinez at NDWR by phone at (775) 687-4380, extension 4, or via email [robertm@water.nv.gov](mailto:robertm@water.nv.gov).

# New on the NDWR Website

Now when you connect to the Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR) website at [water.nv.gov](http://water.nv.gov) you'll find two new additions to the Floodplain Information menu.



## Letters of Map Revision

You may now access scanned images of Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs) for all communities outside of Clark County. The images are PDF files of both the letters themselves and a

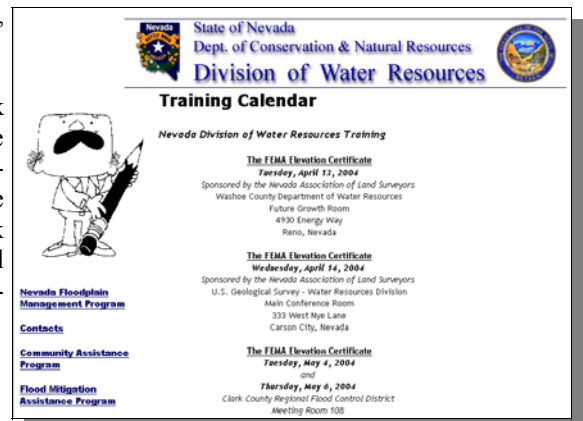
scanned image of the accompanying map. LOMRs available on the website include only those which have been finalized and reflects what is available in the Floodplain Management Program files of the Nevada Division of Water Resources. Information on pending LOMRs may be available through the individual community or through FEMA's Technical Evaluation Contractor, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. (703) 960-8800.

For communities within Clark County, up-to-date flood zone information that includes current effective LOMRs may be obtained through the Clark County Regional Flood Control District's Flood Zone application at [www.ccrfcd.org](http://www.ccrfcd.org).

## Training Calendar

Also available on the NDWR website is the training calendar for scheduled

Floodplain Management Program workshops in Nevada. You will also find information on FEMA Region IX Lender and Insurance Agent workshops, links to the Emergency Management Institute website and links to the California Department of Water Resources training calendar.



## New in Town

About one quarter of Nevada's population moved in from another state between 1995 and 2000. Only 21 percent of Nevada residents were born in the state, the lowest percentage in the coun-



## ASFPM's 28th National Conference

May 16-21, 2004

Beau Rivage Resort and Casino



## 2004 National Flood Conference

May 2-5, 2004  
The Westin Seattle

## Mark your calendar . . .

**Floodplain Management Association Conference**  
**September 7-10, 2004**  
**Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa**



## Emergency Management Institute Training

### Courses Conducted by the Emergency Management Institute (EMI)

#### Mitigation Curriculum

Schedule for April 1, 2004 through  
September 30, 2004

#### E172 - Advanced HAZUS Multi-hazards for Flood (Pilot)

July 12-15, 2004

#### E238 - Cooperating Technical Partners (Invitation Only)

June 14-17, 2004  
August 16-19, 2004

#### 273 - Managing Floodplain Development thru the NFIP

June 14-17, 2004  
August 16-19, 2004

#### E276 - Benefit-Cost Analysis: Entry-Level Training

July 28-30, 2004

#### E278 - NFIP/Community Rating System (CRS)

July 26-29, 2004  
September 20-23, 2004

#### E279 - Retrofitting Flood prone Residential Buildings

April 26-30, 2004

#### E313 - Basic HAZUS Multi-hazards (MH)

September 13-16, 2004

#### E313 - Comprehensive Data Management for HAZUS Multi-Hazards (Pilot)

June 1-4, 2004

#### E329 - Multihazard Building Design Summer Institute: Flood

July 19-23, 2004

**How to Apply:** Applicants to EMI must submit a Standard General Admission Form (FEMA Form 75-5) to Kim Groenewold, Nevada Floodplain Management Program, [groenewd@water.nv.gov](mailto:groenewd@water.nv.gov) or by FAX (775) 687-6972. Forms and detailed information about the courses are available on FEMA's website [training.fema.gov](http://training.fema.gov).

## FEMA Training for Lenders and Insurance Agents

### Courses Conducted by FEMA Insurance Contractor, Computer Sciences Corp.

#### NFIP Insurance Agents Workshops

Saturday, April 24, 2004  
*Sponsored by Insurance Women of Las Vegas*  
Associated General Contractor's  
Office  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Tuesday, May 18, 2004  
Atlantis Casino Resort  
Reno, Nevada

Thursday, May 20, 2004  
Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**How to Apply:** Please contact the Edie Lohman at (916) 780-7905, [Lohmannfip@hotmail.com](mailto:Lohmannfip@hotmail.com). Online registration available for May workshops at [www.niia.org](http://www.niia.org).

## Nevada Floodplain Management Training

### Courses Conducted by the FEMA Region IX and NDWR

*Sponsored by Nevada Association of Land Surveyors*

#### The FEMA Elevation Certificate

Tuesday, April 13, 2004  
Washoe County Department of  
Water Resources Office  
Reno, Nevada

Tuesday, April 14, 2004  
U.S. Geological Survey—WRD  
Office  
Carson City, Nevada

Tuesday, May 4, 2004  
*or*  
Thursday, May 6, 2004  
Clark County Regional Flood  
Control District Office  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**How to Apply:** For more information or to register, contact Judith Lyman at (775) 687-4380, extension 6, [jlyman@water.nv.gov](mailto:jlyman@water.nv.gov).

## Nevada Flood Management News

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES  
123 WEST NYE LANE, SUITE 246  
CARSON CITY, NV 89706-0818

Phone: 775-687-4380, ext. 6, Fax: 775-687-6972  
Email: [groenewd@water.nv.gov](mailto:groenewd@water.nv.gov)

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Carson City, NV 89701  
PERMIT NO 15

**We're on the Web**  
<http://water.nv.gov/>

# NEVADA

## *Flood Management News*

### *Are You Certified?*

*All Nevada floodplain managers are encouraged to become Certified Floodplain Managers through the Association of State Floodplain Managers.*

