

# THE INSIDER

A Publication  
for Members

January  
2011

## The Association of State Floodplain Managers

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### Deputy Executive Director's Report - George Riedel, CFM

I hope everyone had a safe and happy 2010 holiday season. The Association had a very busy year in 2010, both with national policy and as an organization. The 2010 economy brought another year of financial challenges to ASFPM. However, ASFPM has been able to weather these difficult times by planning for and saving for these times and to wisely make tough decisions on spending in order to maintain ASFPM's member benefits and services. ASFPM will continue to operate prudently and wisely to ensure our members of a strong and vibrant organization.

This past year, the Association was heavily involved nationally by working on policy issues dealing with levees, NFIP Reform, Mitigation Programs, COE's Principles and Standards, and Federal budget priorities. ASFPM continues to be involved with and participates on the National Committee on Levee Safety; the Interagency Flood Risk Management Committee consisting of NAFSMA, USACE, and FEMA which discusses national approaches on flood risk management; and with FEMA, the Project Management and Production teams and our mapping partners to discuss Risk MAP. In addition, ASFPM has developed and supported broad coalitions with partners who have common interests and goals such as the Flood Mapping Coalition, Stafford Act Coalition, USGS Coalition, and Insurance Group Coalition, etc.

The Association had a busy and productive year internally. The third Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum was held in Washington, D.C. in March 2010. This event brought together over 90 experts in various aspects of floodplain management, economics, water resources, and other related fields to discuss "Flood Risk Management." The Forum participants pondered whether a risk management approach would be an appropriate and more effective way to manage floods and floodplain resources in the future.

Internally, ASFPM continues to grow. The membership increased in 2010. There are over 14,000 members including all of our national and chapter members. There are now 29 State Chapters of ASFPM. The CFM Program continued to grow in 2010 as well. Currently, there are over 7,000 CFMs nationwide. During the past year, Reliability and Validity testing of the CFM Exam and Certification Program was completed and a report issued. The Certification Board of Regents (CBOR) is using this report with recommendations to revise and update CBOR's Strategic Plan. This will help ensure the CFM Program continues to maintain a high professional level nationally.

#### **DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR ASFPM MEMBERSHIP FOR 2011!!**

Don't risk losing your valuable member benefits – send your renewal form and payment to the ASFPM office now! Not sure if you've renewed? Email [memberhelp@floods.org](mailto:memberhelp@floods.org) to find out.

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ASFPM is working diligently to get ready for the 2011 Annual Conference. The 2011 Conference brochure should be completed and sent out around February 1<sup>st</sup>.

With the Annual Conference comes the election of ASFPM Officers, Regional Directors, and Chapter Directors. Nomination requests for these positions will be sent to all 2011 paid members in February. **Please renew your 2011 ASFPM membership in order to participate in the nomination and election of ASFPM Officers, Regional Directors, and Chapter Directors.**

2010 was a good year for ASFPM and I believe 2011 will be even a better year. Your Association represents its members' needs and concerns at all levels. We seek your input and involvement in all of ASFPM activities. Please contact the ASFPM Board of Directors and/or the ASFPM Executive Office if you have any comments, questions suggestions, or concerns.

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## **First ASFPM-NFDA Webinar is a Success**

On December 15, ASFPM co-sponsored a 2-hour webinar presented by the National Flood Determination Association (NFDA) for NFIP State Coordinators, State Hazard Mitigation Officers and their staff. More than fifty people participated from twenty six states in the webinar, which was titled "*Flood Determination Industry Overview: Purpose, Processes, Challenges and Initiatives.*"

With the advent of Flood Map Modernization and now Risk MAP, concerns, issues and misinformation regarding flood zone determinations have increased significantly. To help provide a better understanding of the industry and challenges facing NFDA members, the NFDA has been providing similar presentations and workshops at flood-plain conferences as well as FEMA Regional meetings.

Facilitated by Bruce Bender (ASFPM Insurance Committee Co-Chair), and presented by Cheryl Small (NFDA President) and Leila Taha (NFDA Past President), the webinar provided insight into who the NFDA is, how flood zone determinations are performed, what happens when discrepancies arise and finally, issues they face when there are discrepancies or issues with the FIRMs themselves. The feedback from a post-webinar evaluation and participant emails was very positive and there is talk of hosting another webinar on the topic.

While NFDA will be presenting a workshop at the national ASFPM conference this year, you may wish to consider inviting them to speak at your state conference; please contact Cheryl Small for more details at [chsmall@corelogic.com](mailto:chsmall@corelogic.com). You can also learn more by attending the [NFDA's Conference](#) April 3-5, 2011 in Scottsdale, AZ. A copy of the webinar slides and chat questions from the December webinar can be downloaded from the [ASFPM website](#).

ASFPM is currently accepting suggestions and requests for future webinar topics via a short survey posted here: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2011\\_Webinar\\_Interest\\_Survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2011_Webinar_Interest_Survey)

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## **Security Awareness for Levee Owners**

The U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently developed and released a fact sheet on "Security Awareness for Levee Owners." This fact sheet provides information to levee owners/operators concerning possible surveillance attempts for possible terrorist attacks targeting levees and other flood risk reduction structures. For more information, go to [http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc\\_1283878065033.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1283878065033.shtm).

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## And the winner is . . . . .

**Seattle Times** – raising public awareness and excellent coverage of the flood risks on the Green River in King County. **Urban Drainage and Flood Control District** in Denver, Colorado, for awesome outreach to land use planners on floodplain preservation and flood risk reduction. **Terri Turner** – our 2010 Local Floodplain Manager of the Year! **Larry Buss**, extraordinary advocate for nonstructural flood-proofing measures to reduce flood risk. **New Jersey Association of Floodplain Managers**, for superior efforts in certifying floodplain managers across the state. **Dave Carlton** – 25 years advancing critical issues with ASFPM’s policy committees. **Ken Morris** – exemplary leadership and inspiring other FPMs in Oklahoma and Region 6. **Peggy Bowker**, incomparable ground breaking leadership and mentoring on many fronts since the early ‘80s.

These were the 2010 national floodplain management award recipients. Don’t you want to cross the finish line in Louisville on May 19?? It is easy to enter the race! Simply go to the ASFPM awards nomination page at <http://www.floods.org/awardsform.asp> and submit your program, project, or person online. Make sure you get it in by the March 1 deadline because it will not be extended as the conference is in mid-May this year. It is highly recommended that you attach applicable letters of support for your nomination. You may direct any questions to Diane Brown in the ASFPM office at [diane@floods.org](mailto:diane@floods.org) or call her at 608-441-3003. Winners will be notified in early April to allow time to make travel arrangements.

### **ASFPM 2011 Conference Update**

\*\*\*Don’t delay, make your hotel reservation for the conference now before our block fills up! Call the hotel now, or make reservations online: [View Hotel Information](#)

\*\*\*The full conference brochure, including registration forms, will be available at the beginning of February, so keep your eyes peeled for more information! [View Conference Webpage](#)

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## **Nick Winter Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**Award Competition for Undergraduate and Graduate Students Deadline: March 31, 2011**

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the ASFPM Foundation will grant a \$2,000 scholarship for the 2011-2012 academic year to a full-time college junior or senior currently enrolled in an undergraduate program related to floodplain/stormwater management, or a student enrolled in a graduate program in a field related to floodplain/stormwater management.

Eligible applicants include current undergraduates in a four-year college program, applicants to a graduate program, or current graduate students. Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited university or college in the United States and be a citizen of the United States. Eligible fields of discipline include civil or environmental engineering, planning, emergency management, environmental sciences, or other disciplines with a demonstrable link to floodplain/stormwater management.

Applicants must complete a 2011-2012 Scholarship Application Form which can be downloaded from ASFPM’s website at: <http://www.asfpmfoundation.org/winters.htm>. Selection preference will be given to those applicants who demonstrate a history of civic or volunteer service, as well as a financial need (i.e. full-time students responsible for their own tuition), in addition to meeting the basic qualifications. In order to be considered, the Scholarship Review Committee must receive the 2011-2012 Scholarship Application Form and a separate reference letter prior to March 31, 2011.

Selection will be made prior to May 1, 2011. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the recipient's college or university.

**Applications and reference letter should be sent electronically to [ASFPM@floods.org](mailto:ASFPM@floods.org). For further information, please contact Debbie Pond at 608-274-0123.**

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## **NOAA Coastal County Snapshots**

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/snapshots/>

This National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration tool breaks building in flood zones down to a simple equation, such as "People+Floodplains=Not Good." And while that might seem like a no brainer, the snapshots show how U.S. coastal counties' realities add up or don't. (About 99 percent of the people in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, for instance, live in a floodplain along with 89 percent of the critical facilities and 95 percent of the roadways.) Data on vulnerable populations, infrastructure, environment, and demographics is all available at a glance.

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## **FEMA: The Blog**

It was only a matter of time, and now the time has come—the Federal Emergency Management Agency has joined the blog rolls. So what can a reader expect from the "first-ever [FEMA blog](#)?" A lot, according to social-media-savvy Administrator Craig Fugate, especially two-way communication. "This won't be another way to put out our press releases—this is a way to communicate directly with you," he writes in the first entry. The blog will soon highlight emergency management insights and innovations from FEMA and beyond, Fugate says. Guest bloggers are already volunteering.

**This is HUGE! There are multiple RSS feeds so you can keep up to date on FEMA information, press releases, changes, and updates.**

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## **Resolve to be Ready in 2011**

With the new year fast approaching, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is encouraging all Americans to make emergency preparedness one of their New Year's resolutions for the coming year. Resolve to be Ready in 2011 is a nationwide effort to urge individuals, families, businesses and communities to focus on being ready and aware of all the hazards that exist in their communities.

"Emergencies can happen at anytime, anywhere," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "They can range from natural disasters such as snowstorms or flooding, to events such as power outages. The key to successful emergency response, regardless of the nature of the event, is personal preparedness. As we ring in 2011, make a resolution to be prepared through a few simple steps: get an emergency supply kit, make an emergency plan and be informed of the hazards in your area."

Resolve to be Ready in 2011 is one resolution anyone can keep thanks to the tools and resources available at [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) or the Spanish language site, [www.Listo.gov](http://www.Listo.gov). These sites include important information such as how to put together a kit, make a plan and stay informed.

Throughout this holiday season, FEMA leadership across the country has been encouraging citizens to Resolve to be Ready in 2011. Among other things, they have written op-eds in [The Tennessean](#), [Everett Daily Herald](#), [Oregon](#)

[Live, Los Angeles Daily News](#), [Southeast Missourian](#) and [Boston Herald](#) encourage readers to take the simple steps to be prepared.

Resolve to be Ready in 2011 is led by FEMA's Ready Campaign in partnership with Citizen Corps and The Advertising Council. For more information on the Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps, visit [Ready.gov](#) and [Citizen-Corps.gov](#).

Follow FEMA online at [www.twitter.com/fema](#), [www.facebook.com/fema](#), [http://blog.fema.gov/](#), and [www.youtube.com/fema](#). Also, follow Administrator Craig Fugate's activities at [www.twitter.com/craigatfema](#). The social media links provided are for reference only. FEMA does not endorse any non-government websites, companies or applications.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

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## CFM Credits Available for Coastal GeoTools Conference

Attention CFMs! Are you looking for another opportunity to earn continuing education credits for your certification? The Coastal GeoTools conference takes place March 21 to 24 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. This conference series focuses on the technical information needs of the nation's coastal programs, and the 2011 conference will focus on building the Digital Coast, a Web platform that provides access to geospatial data, tools, and technical training.

This conference qualifies for 12 Certified Floodplain Manager continuing education credits. Early registration is open through January 31, so visit [http://geotools.csc.noaa.gov](#) today to avoid increased registration fees!

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## 2011 CRS Award for Excellence Nominations

**DEADLINE: February 11, 2011**

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has decided to establish an award to recognize individuals who have actively advanced the vision of the NFIP and the Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS is a program within the NFIP that provides guidelines for participating communities that want to continually improve their community's safety and resilience with respect to flooding and other natural disasters.

While all CRS communities are taking steps that improve their flood safety and resilience, certain communities stand out. As in all serious endeavors, outstanding results do not just happen. They are due to the efforts of specific individuals, who through their knowledge, commitment and passion, have made their communities safer. The NFIP hopes to annually recognize such individuals through the presentation of the "[CRS Award for Excellence](#)" during the annual National Flood Conferences (NFC). The presentation of the 2011 award is planned for the NFC scheduled for May 1-4, 2011. We are asking your organization and its members to help us identify worthy individuals. In particular we are looking for nominees who have provided leadership in the area of alerting residents to the dangers of flooding and promoting the purchase of flood insurance through the NFIP. Such an individual could be an insurance or real estate professional, local official, floodplain manager, or other community leader.

The nominee should be:

- Actively involved in a CRS community and knowledgeable about the potential risk of local flooding.

- Active in promoting the use of flood insurance as a key tool in helping individuals prepare for the contingency of flood damage to their properties.
- Active in encouraging community leaders to continually improve the community's safety and resilience related to flooding and other disasters.
- Recognizable as having noteworthy achievements in the area of alerting residents and businesses to potential flood dangers and promoting the purchase of flood insurance.

If you or your members know of any such individuals, please help us recognize their achievements. Fill out the [Nomination Form](#) and mail or fax it as directed thereon. Please return the form no later than February 11, 2011.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. The NFIP appreciates your assistance in helping us to recognize leaders whose efforts have made communities more alert and resistant to the dangers of natural disasters.

*Please feel free to reprint this article in your State, Chapter, and State Association newsletters.*

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## **Meet Your Board**

*In this column we will introduce the members of our [Board of Directors](#). The intent of this column is for you to get to know the people serving on our Board and better understand how the Board is structured.*

This month we are going to introduce two more of the ten Regional Directors, this time in Regions 8 and 10. Regional Directors are elected in alternating years, with elections for even number regions held in even numbered years and odd numbered regions held in odd numbered years. Once elected they serve a two-year term from the end of one annual conference to the end of the annual conference in two years. Regional Directors of ASFPM must be individual ASFPM members, must reside in the Region in which they are serving, and cannot be federal employees. A person may serve up to three consecutive terms as a Regional Director.

### **Jeff Sickles, P.E., CFM – Region 8 Director (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)**



Jeff has spent the last four years serving as the Region 8 Director for ASFPM and has enjoyed the privilege and opportunity to serve the water resources and floodplain management community in Region 8. He took the board position hoping to find opportunities to give back to the floodplain management community via his time and ideas. Seeing floodplains as a scarce and valuable resource, he understands how important it is that programs such as NAI be implemented in communities around the Nation.

Jeff grew up in Evergreen, Colorado and graduated from the Civil Engineering program at the University of Colorado in 1994. He has spent the entirety of his career working for consulting firms in Colorado and has worked on floodplain management projects in numerous states including Colorado, California, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota. Jeff's focus throughout his career has been in the area of water resources and floodplain management. He enjoys working within the engineering and planning community to help improve the quality of floodplain mapping available to the public and finding new ways to manage stormwater and floodplains.

Jeff currently works at his own consulting company, Enginuity Engineering Solutions, where he continues to serve local, state, and regional clients. When not working, Jeff tag teams with his wife trying to keep up with their five daughters, two of which are teenagers with another two who are tween-agers; 18, 14, 12, 12 and 11. Let's just say the car is jam packed on ski weekends to the Colorado mountains. Outside of skiing with the kids he enjoys camping with his family, hiking, and a variety of outdoor activities.

## **Robert Freitag, CFM – Region 10 Director (AK, ID, OR, WA)**

Bob Freitag is the Executive Director of the Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup ([CREW www.crew.org](http://www.crew.org)), Director of the Institute for Hazards Mitigation Planning and Research and Associate Faculty at the University of Washington (<http://depts.washington.edu/mitigate/>). The Institute promotes hazards mitigation principles through courses, student intern opportunities and research. CREW is a not-for-profit corporation of private and public representatives working together to improve the ability of Cascadia Region communities to reduce the adverse effects of earthquakes. Freitag served for 5 years on the ASFPM Certification Board and has been Region 10 Director for since 2008. He is coauthor of “Floodplain Management: a new approach for a new era” (Island Press 2009).

Before coming to the University, he worked as Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO), among other roles, for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and before that he was employed by several private architectural and engineering firms in Hawaii and Australia, and taught science as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines. Freitag received his Master of Urban Planning degree from the University of Washington.

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## **Washington Legislative Report**

By: Meredith R. Inderfurth, Washington Liaison

### **Ceremony, Rules and Organization**

The 112<sup>th</sup> Congress convened on January 5<sup>th</sup> with many ceremonial flourishes, followed by voting in the House on rules to govern procedures and some announcements of committee and subcommittee memberships and chairmanships.



The Senate has recessed until January 25<sup>th</sup> with floor consideration of rules changes, particularly affecting parliamentary procedures surrounding the filibuster, expected to dominate at that time. The House will remain in session throughout the month.

### **Rules**

The House adopted a package of rules changes (H.Res.5) designed to enhance transparency and to facilitate budget cutting. New rules require any newly introduced legislative proposals to be accompanied by a citation of the relevant Constitutional authority.

The Chairman of the Budget Committee (Rep. Paul Ryan, R-WI) will have the unprecedented authority to publish a discretionary spending limit for the rest of FY 2011 without a committee or floor vote. The “pay-as-you-go” rule adopted in the previous Congress has been replaced with a “cut-as-you-go” rule. The former required budget offsets to both mandatory spending increases and tax cuts and allowed tax increases or mandatory spending reductions to be used as offsets. The new rule applies only to mandatory spending increases and allows only mandatory spending reductions as offsets. New rules require that bills be available online for three days before a House floor vote and require committees to post their rules, legislation and votes online. Six year term limits are imposed for committee chairmanships.

### **Committees**

Most of the committee announcements came from new House Republican leadership and committee chairs. Decisions have not been finalized on House Democratic committee memberships and Ranking Minority Members. Very few announcements have been made on the Senate side, particularly with regard to Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Minority Members. Since the Majority party did not change in the Senate, there will be many fewer changes.

New Speaker John Boehner has announced that there will be a 5% cutback in administrative costs of the House of Representatives. This applies to each Member's staff and office allowances as well as to committee staffs and leadership offices. Further, the Speaker has directed that committee memberships be slightly reduced overall so that Members will presumably have fewer assignments and be better able to focus on their committee work.

The following are the new Chairmen in the House committees with jurisdiction over issues and programs of particular interest to floodplain managers:

Appropriations: Rep. Harold Rogers (R-KY)  
Financial Services: Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL)  
Homeland Security: Rep. Peter King (R-NY)  
Natural Resources: Rep. Doc Hastings (R-WA)  
Transportation and Infrastructure: Rep. Dan Mica (R-FL)

### **Projected Agendas**

The new leadership has not given indication as to plans for House floor activity except for a vote scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup> on repeal of the health care legislation passed in the previous Congress last spring.

The Continuing Resolution funding the federal government will expire on March 4<sup>th</sup>, so the Appropriations Committee and leadership will have to focus on passage of some form of appropriations legislation to complete funding for FY 2011. Initial projections of how much the budget can be reduced have been reduced due to recognition that half of the fiscal year will have elapsed by March 4<sup>th</sup>.

It has already been announced that there will be a delay in the usual early February release of the President's budget request for FY 2012 until later in the month. This is at least partially due to the many delays last summer and fall in Senate action to confirm the new Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Once the budget is released, the Appropriations Committees will begin their regular series of hearings to examine the budget justifications of the departments and agencies.

The Financial Services Committee has announced plans for early action to rein in government-sponsored enterprises and to revamp portions of the Dodd-Frank financial regulatory reform legislation, particularly the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. There has been some realignment of subcommittee jurisdictions. The former Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity will assume jurisdiction over all insurance issues, becoming the Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity. That subcommittee has jurisdiction over the National Flood Insurance Program. New Chair, Rep. Judy Biggert (R-IL), has announced an ambitious agenda to include examination of property and casualty insurance, mortgage servicing, the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, terrorism risk insurance, the Community Reinvestment Act and flood insurance. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has announced that the Water Resources Subcommittee will work to develop a new Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). On the subject of levees, the subcommittee will look "at ways to provide cities and towns the time and the means to get their levees investigated and, if necessary, repaired." A new subcommittee chair has not yet been announced.

### **Pre-Disaster Mitigation**

Legislation reauthorizing the Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program for three years was passed in the very final days of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. The bill codifies the program as a competitive program and specifically prohibits earmarks. The measure, H.R. 1746, has now been signed by the President and is Public Law 111-351.

*Any legislation referenced can be viewed by going to <http://thomas.loc.gov> and typing in the bill number.*

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Submit your own items or suggestions for future topics to column editor Rebecca Quinn, CFM, at [rcquinn@earthlink.net](mailto:rcquinn@earthlink.net). Comments welcomed!

### Here's Something You Might Find Interesting . . .

Most states and communities that adopt building codes base their codes on the International Code Series® that is developed and maintained by the International Code Council, Inc. The I-Codes have provisions that apply to buildings and structures in flood hazard areas and FEMA has determined that the provisions of the 2006, 2009 and upcoming 2012 editions are consistent with the NFIP regulations.

Communities that enforce a state-adopted building code (and communities that elect to adopt a code) may administer both the codes and a separate set of floodplain management regulations. In recent years, some states and communities are coordinating the codes and regulations to resolve differences, avoid overlap, and to ensure complete enforcement.

Many local code officials are also designated as their community's floodplain administrator. But many of us don't regularly deal with both codes and floodplain management regulations. As the two disciplines are brought together, I've become aware that some terms used in the building codes and by building officials are similar to terms that floodplain managers have used for years. But there are some important differences and nuances to keep in mind. Let's take a look at some of the more significant ones.

**Special Flood Hazard Area and Flood Hazard Area.** The NFIP regulations actually define "area of special flood hazard," but we all call it the SFHA. It's the area shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps as subject to a one-percent or greater chance of flooding. The I-Codes use the term "flood hazard area" (FHA) which allows communities to adopt a map (or designate an area) other than the FIRM. Enforcement of the flood provisions of the I-Codes is required within flood hazard areas – and at a minimum, FHAs are SFHAs. Why might a community adopt another map? Well, a growing number of communities are developing "future condition" maps that take into consideration anticipated upland development. And sometimes, when significant events exceed the boundaries shown on FIRMs, some communities decide to regulate based on the flood of record. However, for most communities, the FIRM is the adopted map, which means the FHA is the same as the SFHA.

**Base Flood Elevation and Design Flood Elevation.** The Base Flood Elevation is the elevation of the base flood, which is the 1%-annual-chance (100-year) flood. The I-Codes use the term Design Flood Elevation (DFE). The term DFE traces back many years, originating in two standards that are referenced by the codes: ASCE 7 and the first edition of ASCE 24, *Flood Resistant Design and Construction*. Similar to the BFE, the DFE is the elevation of the design flood, and just as the SFHA is related to the FHA, the BFE is related to the DFE. The DFE is always at least the BFE – indeed, the two are exactly the same in the vast majority of communities because they adopt FIRMs. The DFE is higher than the BFE only in communities that adopt a map that shows flood hazard areas that are greater than the SFHAs shown on their FIRMs. Another twist has started to appear, and that is related to freeboard. Some jurisdictions have modified the I-Codes by putting freeboard into the definition of DFE, for example defining the DFE as BFE+1' or 2'. You can download highlights of ASCE 24 from the web at: <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3515>. (In the near future, this and other building code resources will be available on the FEMA Building Sciences webpage: <http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/buildingscience>.)

**Residential and Nonresidential.** The NFIP regulations have one significant provision that applies depending on whether a building is residential or nonresidential: nonresidential buildings in A zones must either be elevated or floodproofed (not applicable in V zones). But the terms "residential" and "nonresidential" are not defined in the NFIP regulations – and while the distinction seems clear at first, there are plenty of examples of buildings that

aren't easy to classify. The building codes use a different way to distinguish which code applies to which buildings. The International Residential Code is used to regulate one- and two-family dwellings and townhomes, all limited to three stories high. The International Building Code (sometimes called the "commercial" code) applies to all other buildings, called occupancies.

On the surface, it looks like the two codes line up with the NFIP's distinction between residential and nonresidential. Ah, but it's not so simple. The IBC's Use and Occupancy Classifications include Assembly, Business, Educational, Factory, High-hazard, Institutional Mercantile, Storage, Utility and Miscellaneous, and Residential. That last classification, Residential, includes all residential occupancies other than the dwellings that are within the scope of the IRC. What might those be? Well, residential occupancies include boarding houses, hotels, motels, apartment buildings, convents, monasteries, dormitories, vacation timeshares, and certain residential care/assisted living facilities. So the question then, when applying the IBC, is whether those residential occupancies can be dry floodproofed? Since we know the I-Codes are consistent with the NFIP, we can be assured the answer is no. But where do we find that limitation? IBC Sec. 1612.4 refers to ASCE 24, which includes all the familiar design requirements (and more), including dry floodproofing. It's important to note that ASCE 24 does define the terms "residential" and "nonresidential," so that it is clear which buildings or portions of buildings can be dry floodproofed.

The lesson here is that those of us who deal primarily with NFIP-based regulations should be aware that when we say "residential," our building code colleagues might think of the IRC, and not realize that floodproofing cannot be used for all buildings that are within the scope of the IBC.

**Critical Facilities and Essential Facilities.** FEMA has done a lot of post-disaster examination of critical facilities – a term that is not defined in NFIP or disaster regulations, but is generally considered to include facilities that house important services that should remain functional even after significant disasters. The NFIP doesn't have specific requirements for buildings and facilities that serve such vital functions. The IBC defines "essential facilities" as "buildings and other structures that are intended to remain operational in the event of an extreme environmental loading from flood, wind, snow or earthquakes." In addition, the IBC requires that each building be assigned an occupancy category according to a table that describes four occupancy categories (starting with the 2010 IBC, risk categories will be used). Occupancy Category IV includes buildings and structures that the emergency management community considers to be critical and essential facilities. The IBC, by reference to ASCE 24, *Flood Resistant Design and Construction*, requires freeboard for Occupancy Category IV structures. The code-required freeboard may or may not result in protection to the 500-year flood elevation. Of course, the floodplain managers among us would prefer to see critical and essential facilities located on higher ground outside of flood hazard areas, whenever possible. The summary of ASCE 24 referenced above includes the table that describes the four occupancy categories and another table that summarizes all of the elevation requirements.

**Liveable and Habitable.** Many people use the term "liveable," but it's not defined in the code. The term "habitable" is defined in the code. The reason I draw your attention to this is because every now and then someone will say "in a floodplain all habitable (or liveable) spaces have to be elevated." So, take a close look at the code definition of habitable space: "A space in a building for living, sleeping, eating or cooking. Bathrooms, toilet rooms, closets, halls, storage or utility spaces and similar areas are not considered habitable spaces." We're all familiar with the NFIP limitation on enclosures below the BFE – they may be used only for parking of vehicles, building access and storage. It's easy to see the disconnect – there are certain uses that aren't habitable spaces, but also aren't allowed below the BFE. Thus, it is an incomplete statement to say habitable (or liveable) spaces have to be elevated. As repetitive as it may seem at times, when talking about enclosures it's always best to repeat the allowed uses: parking of vehicles, building access, and storage.

**Crawlspace and Under-floor Space.** Both terms are used but not defined by the building codes. NFIP guidance materials use the term "crawlspace," but it is not used or defined in the regulations. Both terms refer to a type of foundation that is surrounded by solid perimeter, load-bearing walls. We all know a crawlspace when we see it – it's the space between the ground (whether earth or concrete/sealed) and the floor system above. But when that space gets taller than three feet or so, what do we call it? It's rather awkward to refer to a 7 ft high space as a crawlspace. This is where the term "under-floor space" is helpful. FEMA's revised TB-1 uses the term "full-

height under-floor space” to describe solid perimeter walls that have enough headroom that the enclosed area can be used for parking of vehicles, building access, and storage.

**Registered Design Professional.** The NFIP regulations require that certain things be done by a “registered professional engineer or architect,” but do not specifically reference licensed surveyors. Individual states regulate the professions of engineering, architecture, and land surveying. Some states call them licensed professionals, while others call them registered professionals. Each state also specifies what constitutes “practicing” each profession. For example, in some states, engineers can’t do land surveys and architects can’t do structural engineering. To make it easier all around, the building codes use the collective noun “registered design professional” which is defined as “an individual who is registered or licensed to practice their respective design profession as defined by the statutory requirements of the professional registration laws of the state or jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed.” So, when you read in the codes that documentation prepared by a registered design professional must be submitted, it doesn’t automatically mean that architects and engineers can do the surveys, or that architects and surveyors can do floodway encroachment analyses – whether they can depends on the applicable laws.

[RCQ]

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## CFM<sup>®</sup> Corner

*This section will appear in each issue of the Insider. Email for certification questions is [cfm@floods.org](mailto:cfm@floods.org). For suggestions on specific topics or questions to be covered, please send an email to Anita at this address in the ASFPM Office.*



Recently some members of the Certification Board of Regents (CBOR) rotated off CBOR and new individuals were appointed to these CBOR positions.

Effective January 1, 2011, the following changes took place:

- Mike DePue, CFM, replaces Cleighton Smith, CFM as the CBOR Private Sector representative. Mr. DePue also sits on the ASFPM Foundation Board of Trustees and is employed by PBS&J.
- Gene Henry, CFM replaces Diane Calhoun, CFM as the CBOR At-Large representative. Mr. Henry is a founding Board Member of the Florida Floodplain Managers Association and has served on the ASFPM Board of Directors. He is employed by Hillsborough County, FL.

CBOR welcomes Gene and Mike and says farewell to Diane and Cleighton. ASFPM thanks Cleighton and Diane for their hard work on CBOR during their appointment.

ASFPM would like to thank Diane for serving as President of CBOR for eight years. Under Diane’s guidance, CBOR initiated a joint venture with Ohio State University to conduct a detailed assessment for Reliability and Validity (R&V) of ASFPM’s Certification Program. The recommendations from this project are being incorporated into the Certification Program and CBOR’s five-year Strategic Plan.

Diane is considered to be one of the ASFPM treasures, where her contributions to State Chapters, ASFPM Board and Committees, ASFPM’s membership, and NFIP communities have been beyond measure. Many do not know that Diane served on the original ASFPM CFM Task Force and has been a member of the Professional Development Committee (PDC) Exam Review Committee since the pilot CFM exam in 1998.

Thank you Diane for your 30+ years of service to the floodplain management community.

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## **Chapter Corner**

*Chapter Chairs or Chapter newsletter editors are encouraged to email Kait Laufenberg at [kait@floods.org](mailto:kait@floods.org) with articles, information, or activities happening in your Chapter.*

### **Texas Chapter's Efforts Result in More Accurate Reporting of Flood Fatalities**

The Texas Department of State Health Services recently released a [Public Health Report](#) on Deaths associated with Tropical Storm Hermine. This report represents the result of many years of work from the Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA) in helping to shape how flood and flood-related deaths are counted. TFMA's work on this issue began back in 2007 through their Turn Around Don't Drown (TADD) outreach activities lead by Roy Sedwick, TFMA's standing Executive Director.

Following the 2007 floods in Texas, it became apparent to TFMA that reports of flood-related fatalities did not accurately represent the number of actual deaths as a direct or indirect result of those floods. A collaboration between TFMA and the National Weather Service (NWS) led to the birth of the Texas Flash Flood Coalition (formerly the Texas Flash Flood War Council). Since its inception, the Texas Flash Flood Coalition (TFFC) has tripled in size and partnered with other agencies like the State Health Department working to document flood and flood-related deaths. The Department of State Health Service's Public Health Report titled, [Disaster Mortality Surveillance during Tropical Storm Hermine, Texas, 2010](#), details the ways that flood and flood-related fatalities were documented across the state. It serves as a model for more accurate reporting of deaths as a result of flooding.

The TFFC has developed into a powerful research and outreach engine and is set to become TFMA's public education and outreach arm for flood safety. A new website is currently under development for TFFC which will allow TFMA to post newly developed best management practices (BMPs) for flood safety and TADD; the website is expected to be up by the first of the new year. For more information on TFMA, visit the Association's website: <http://www.tfma.org/>.

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### **[Membership Renewal - Make it a No-Brainer](#) by Heidi T. Wunder**

#### ***Fernley & Fernley Volunteer Leadership Today***

Excellent article on how to "sell" chapter membership renewals. As businesses and individuals are being forced to tighten their budgets, intangibles such as association membership renewals may be met with less than a sense of urgency. This article provides suggestions on how to position your association's membership as a valued service your members won't want to go without.

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## **WWW.FLOODS.ORG Tips**

*Over the course of the year, ASFPM will be "showcasing" new features and options available on the ASFPM website. If you have something you'd like us to cover, please contact Kait Laufenberg at [Kait@floods.org](mailto:Kait@floods.org) or Diane Brown at [diane@floods.org](mailto:diane@floods.org).*

### **Need a Job? Need to Advertise a Job Vacancy? Check ASFPM's Job Corner!**

The ASFPM website has a page for job postings. Check out the Job Corner to view floodplain management positions available throughout the country or post your vacancy. There is no charge to view or post jobs. To view available job openings click on the **Job Corner** tab on our website menu. To advertise a vacancy within your organization or state, click the link at the top of the Job Corner page or go to <http://www.floods.org/n-jobpost/post.asp>. You fill in all the relevant details about your job opportunity, ASFPM reviews and posts live after approval. Advertising your job posting is free of charge!

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## Floodplain Management Training Calendar

For a full nationwide listing of Chapter, State, and Partner training opportunities, please visit our online calendar at: <http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/calendar.asp?>

Are you looking for training opportunities to earn CECs for your CFM? If so, be sure to check out our web calendar, which already has LOTS of training opportunities listed for 2011! You can search the calendar by state using the directions below. Or you can use the category drop down menu to search by category.

<http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/calendar.asp>



Go to the calendar and click on the search feature icon at the top of the calendar. Type your state's initials in parenthesis (for example "(WI)") into the search field and it will pull all the events (training, conferences, etc.) that are currently listed on the calendar for your state. What a great way to find upcoming training for CECs! The only events without a state listed in the event title are EMI courses which are all held in Emmitsburg, MD.

### Upcoming ASFPM National Conferences – Mark your Calendar!

- May 15-20, 2011 – ASFPM 35<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference – Louisville, KY
- May 20-25, 2012 – ASFPM 36<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference – San Antonio, TX
- June 9-14, 2013 – ASFPM 37<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference – Hartford, CT
- June 1-6, 2014 – ASFPM 38<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference – Seattle, WA
- May 31 – June 5, 2015 – ASFPM 39<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference – Atlanta, GA

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## Grant and Scholarship Opportunities

### American Society of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) 2011-2012

#### [Dam Safety Scholarships](#) - **Deadline: April 1, 2011**

ASDSO Undergraduate Scholarship: ASDSO awards up to \$10,000 annually. Students who will graduate in May 2012 will be eligible for 2011-2012 scholarships. Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2011. Applications for are now available at [www.damsafety.org](http://www.damsafety.org). The deadline for applying is April 1, 2011.

### Quick Response Grant Program - Natural Hazards Center, Boulder, CO

The immediate nature of most disasters means researchers need to be quick on the draw to collect perishable data. Now we at the Natural Hazards Center are pleased to announce we're quicker, too.

In the past two years, we've made significant improvements in how we evaluate and score proposals for our [Quick Response Grant Program](#). Those changes, which include a blind evaluation based on a weighted criteria and ranking system, allow us to turn our program on a dime—and that has allowed us to make a noteworthy change in how we'll process grant proposals in the future.

For the 2011 program year, we've eliminated the fall preapproval process and will evaluate proposals submitted to study specific disasters as they occur, saving you the guesswork of writing about events that haven't happened yet. We'll still have the same application requirements, but will be able to provide more support to potential applicants than ever before.

With that in mind, we've created an e-mail list where we'll distribute the new guidelines and keep you in the loop throughout the year—[sign up today](#) (you don't have to reenter all of your info—just your name, e-mail address, and check the QR box), so you'll be ready to enter the field tomorrow.

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### **Interior Provides \$19 Million for Coastal Habitat**

On December 22nd, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced more than \$19 million in grants to support 24 conservation projects on more than 5,900 acres of coastal habitats in twelve states. These federal grants will be matched by nearly \$21 million in partner contributions from state and local governments, private landowners and conservation groups. The 2011 grants will be used to acquire, restore or enhance coastal wetlands and adjacent uplands to the benefit of fish, wildlife and their habitat. States receiving funds include: Alabama, Alaska, California, Delaware, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Washington and Wisconsin. For more information, including a complete list of projects funded, visit the Fish and Wildlife Service's website at: <http://www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalGrants/index.html>.

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## **Requests for Submissions**

### **[Dam Safety '11 Call for Abstracts](#)**

**American Society of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO)**

**Deadline: February 11, 2011**

Dam Safety 2011 will be held September 25-29, 2011 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in Washington, DC. ASDSO invites all persons interested in the safety of dams to submit abstracts of papers to be considered for presentation at the ASDSO 28th Annual Conference. Engineers, geologists, hydrologists, dam owners, state, local or federal officials, industry representatives and others working in the field of dam safety are invited to share their experiences. Proposals should include the subject, draft agenda with possible presenters and recommended track coordinator(s). Regardless of the form of submittal, the primary author will receive an e-mailed acknowledgment of the receipt of the abstract. Technical agenda and Security Forum abstracts should generally be between 200 to 350 words in length. Conference presentations are scheduled for 30 minutes each.



### **[Dam Safety '11 Student Paper Competition](#)**

**American Society of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO)**

**Deadline: February 11, 2011**

Dam Safety 2011 will be held September 25-29, 2011 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in Washington, DC. ASDSO invites undergraduate or graduate students actively pursuing degrees at US universities or colleges at the time of the abstract deadline to submit papers. ASDSO will award up to \$1500 to up to three undergraduate or graduate students who will present papers at Dam Safety '11. Conference registration fees will be waived for all student attendees. Submissions must include an extended abstract of at least 1,200 words; name of academic institution; academic major and level; enrollment status in February 2011 (full-time, part-time or co-op); names, titles, and affiliations of co-authors; and notice of intent to present the proposed paper at the Dam Safety 2011 Conference. Following review of abstracts, ASDSO will invite full papers by February 25, 2011. Full papers will be due May 20. Awards will be announced in June 2011. Winning papers will be published in the Dam Safety 2011 Proceedings. All other entries will be reviewed for entry in the Dam Safety 2011 Poster Session. For more information contact Sarah McCubbin-Cain, 859-257-2102, [smc@damsafety.org](mailto:smc@damsafety.org).

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### [Call for Presenters](#)

#### **Sustaining the Blue Planet Global Water Conference**

**Deadline: March 31, 2011**

The [Project WET Foundation](#)—publisher of the most complete water resources education materials available and leader in the field of water education in the United States and around the world—is inviting everyone with an interest in our most precious natural resource to join us in beautiful Bozeman, MT for *Sustaining the Blue Planet*. The first conference will focus exclusively on water education and its role in solving the world's pressing water issues. The Sustaining the Blue Planet conference team requests proposals for presentations from educators, policymakers, businesses, municipalities, program designers, implementers and practitioners and all others interested in water education. In the interest of innovation, engaging and interactive presentations are encouraged. Presentations must address one of the five conference strands. Email submissions to: [BluePlanet@projectwet.org](mailto:BluePlanet@projectwet.org)



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### [Call for Evaluators](#)

#### **Comprehensive Disaster Management Harmonized Implementation Programme Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency**

**Deadline: January 15, 2011**

The United Kingdom Department for International Development is requesting proposals for a mid-term evaluation of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Harmonized Implementation Programme. The program, which is managed by the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency, is a five-year effort to enhance institutional support for and community resilience to climate variability and disaster. The two-person evaluation team should have at least five years of evaluation experience and include at least one disaster risk reduction specialist with extensive Caribbean knowledge. Contact **Cisne Pascal** or **Lisa Rodriguez** for more information.

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### [2011 Request for Proposals](#)

#### **Five Star Restoration Program**

**Deadline: February 14, 2011**

The Five Star Restoration Program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships for wetland, riparian, and coastal habitat restoration. The National Association of Counties, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC), in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Southern Company, and FedEx, are pleased to solicit applications for Five Star. Jessie Schmidt, Coordinator, MWRRRI-FWRC, Email: [jschmidt@cfr.msstate.edu](mailto:jschmidt@cfr.msstate.edu)

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### [Call for Proposals](#)

#### **Disaster Resilience for Rural Communities National Science Foundation and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration**

**Deadline: March 4, 2011**

The National Science Foundation and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are accepting proposals for engineering, social, behavioral, or economic research that promises to enhance the resilience of rural communities to disaster. The agencies expect to support multiple proposals of \$400,000 or less, up to a total of \$2 million. More information on proposal criteria, budget requirements, and submission are available online.

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## **Job Corner**

Below are just a few of the job openings currently posted on our website. For a complete list, visit our online job corner at <http://www.floods.org/n-jobpost/index.asp>.

### **Senior Policy Advisor** NOAA

#### Position Description

Works closely with NOAA's broader political leadership and NOAA's Line and Staff Offices to address NOAA-wide policy goals, objectives, and program issues. Provides research, policy analysis, advice, and support on major policies, legislation, and programs affecting ocean and coastal resource issues. Focuses on policies and activities related to implementing the National Ocean Policy. Coordinates activities on NOAA priority issues and works independently to develop, coordinate, and help implement major new policy, programs, and activities with the Department and throughout the Administration. Writes, reviews, and approves a myriad of actions, briefings, controlled correspondence, leadership messages, speeches, press releases, testimony, and routine reports for NOAA and the Administration. Participates in NOAA activities supporting the National Ocean Council and in other working groups or task forces to represent policies, objectives, and decisions of NOAA leadership and to ensure close coordination and cooperation among Federal agencies, stakeholders, and Congressional staff. Establishes and maintains effective working relationships with top management, plus all levels of external individuals and groups, to gain cooperation and support of issues, initiatives, or other matters. Oversees and manages multiple activities, coordinates the work of others, and integrates the work into a completed product.

#### Qualifications

In addition to the education requirements you must have one year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade/band. For the ZA-III (GS-11 or GS-09 equivalent); For the ZA-IV (GS-13 or 12 equivalent). Specialized experience is experience that has equipped the applicant with the particular competencies/knowledge, skills and abilities to successfully perform the duties of the position. This experience need not have been in the federal government.

Specialized experience is defined as experience in (1) analyzing and developing policy issues and/or legislation related to ocean and coastal resource issues; (2) translating technical issues for policy makers and the public; (3) writing and presenting controversial issues; and (4) fostering partnerships.

Job Announcement Number: SO-UNSEC-2011-0006

Apply online at: <http://www.usajobs.gov/>

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### **HMEM Practice Leader**

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

Michael Baker Jr. Inc., an engineering unit of Michael Baker Corporation, seeks a HMEM Practice Leader (Technical Manager III) for our Phoenix, AZ (location is open) office.

#### Responsibilities/Description/Role

The Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Management Practice Leader (Technical Manager III) will be responsible for business development, sales, and delivery of project work related to Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Management (HMEM) programs regionally and nationwide for Baker's Federal Water Services Area business. Working through a geographically distributed team, position will include the management of key staff directly reporting to this position and the use of specialized staff that resides within aligned operational units. Depending on candidates qualifications position may be split with a business development practice leader and a project delivery technical leader.

The HMEM leader is responsible for strategic planning and growth of the practice, providing leadership including

technical guidance for other Baker employees in offices throughout the company working on hazard mitigation or emergency management related projects, and direct supervision of staff. The ideal candidate will have a track record of winning and producing related services and/or demonstrate an extensive national network through personal contacts and professional organization involvement. Specific technical skills include proficiency in the development and implementation of complex hazard mitigation plans and projects for Federal, state and local governments, understanding of Federal and state laws related to hazard mitigation and emergency management, knowledge of comprehensive emergency management, ability to train internal staff and clients on hazard mitigation and/or emergency management related topics. Other functions involve business development, advising and assisting Water and Homeland Security business line leadership in mitigation activities and involves frequent contacts with federal, state and local officials and public agencies to facilitate complex discussions. Responsibilities also include conducting studies and surveys and planning and participating in workshops, conferences and exercises.

To apply for this position, please log on to <https://career.mbakercorp.com/> and reference IRC42959.

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### **Senior Water Resources Engineer**

Brown & Caldwell

#### Position Description

Brown and Caldwell, a leader in Water Resources throughout the West and Rocky Mountain Region, is seeking a Senior Engineer to work on our diverse and growing portfolio of clients and projects in our Denver office, located in the Golden/Lakewood area.

Current Water Resources services provided by Brown and Caldwell include: water rights evaluations, litigation support (Colorado, New Mexico, Nebraska, Arizona, and California), water supply planning, master planning, water treatment and delivery, historical consumptive use evaluations, technical evaluations of water transfers, storm-water planning and design, stream restoration and modeling, surface water quality permitting and regulatory negotiations, and groundwater supply and modeling.

Please visit our Web site at [www.browncaldwell.com](http://www.browncaldwell.com) to apply online.

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