

# **ASFPM Arid Regions Policy Committee**

## **Conference Call**

**Tuesday, June 12, 2018**

**9:00 – 10:00 AM Pacific Daylight Time**

**(9 AM PDT, 9 AM MST, 10 AM MDT, 11 AM CDT, 12 Noon EDT)**

**Dial-in number: 1-712-775-7031; Access Code: 289 375 470#**

## **AGENDA**

1. Introductions and Welcome – roll call by state to identify new participants.
2. Update on plans to host an Arid Regions Conference in New Mexico. (Jeanne/Rigel)
3. Final update on ASFPM national conference in Phoenix next week.
4. Other business.
5. Identify action Items.
6. Date for next scheduled Conference Call: Tuesday, July 10, 2018.

### **Also of possible interest to Arid Regions Members:**

#### **New Resilience Organization Established within FEMA May 28**

ASFPM notes that Eric Heighberger, FEMA chief of staff, announced that as of May 28, the administrator is establishing a new resilience organization within FEMA, combining the National Preparedness Directorate, Grant Programs Directorate, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, National Continuity Programs and other Protection and National Preparedness Offices. You can see how this initiative fits in to FEMA's org chart [here](#).

#### **Credit Downgrade Threat as a Non-regulatory Driver for Flood Risk Mitigation and Sea Level Rise Adaptation**

Also from the ASFPM "What's New" list: This white paper was written by long-time ASFPM member John A. Miller. In the Abstract, Miller says: "Federal policies and regulations with higher standards that respond to climate change and sea level rise are being rolled back by the current administration. In that void, the threat of credit rating downgrades is expected to be a developing non-regulatory driver to future risk planning and adaptation" He says it

appears that communities that are proactive in adopting measures to deal with the anticipated challenges of climate change “are likely to be spared the need to increase revenues to counter the higher borrowing costs that are coincident with a bond rating downgrade due to likely loss of taxable properties caused by sea level rise in the future. Municipalities that do not engage now in addressing the threats associated with climate change may have to increase taxes to offset the increased bond return demanded by investors.” A downloadable PDF of the white paper is available [here](#).