State Floodplain Managers Alert:
Chapter Alert: Economic Stimulus Package Update

ASFPM is sending this information to our Chapters and the States to make sure you are aware of the sources for potential stimulus funding for projects that result in the reduction of future flood losses and flood risk.

The incoming Administration and Congress are undertaking the largest government plan to infuse the American economy in seven decades, as they grapple with the grave economic challenges we face. Congress recently appropriated millions in stimulus dollars to many of the Federal Agencies with which we coordinate: NRCS, NOAA, USACE, EPA, USGS, to name a few. The average cost of annual flood damages in the nation has tripled in the 20th century to an astounding $6 Billion. That average has increased rapidly since 2000 due to several large disasters, and will likely increase at an even faster pace as human, economic, and environmental resources become more burdened. It is critical that we do all we can to help ensure that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus program will help reduce future flood damages in the process.

ASFPM is working with the Agencies and Congressionals to urge language requiring consideration of hazard mitigation in all infrastructure elements of the stimulus package, including public safety, reconstruction resiliency, achieving healthier and more flood-resistant communities, protecting watersheds, removing old dams for watershed restoration, creating easements that preserve the natural and beneficial functions, nonpoint source pollution control, etc. And we have offered our advisory assistance to help set priorities and involve state and local governments as these agencies prepare to implement stimulus funding.

ASFPM developed a matrix extracted from the bill with basic information on all the agencies receiving stimulus money and the types of projects that can be funded. This is time-sensitive information and will change. Hence the matrix will be updated frequently, so please keep checking back for the agencies’ updates as they progress through their programs. You may see the full stimulus bill passed by Congress at www.recovery.gov.

Next Step
ASFPM urges you to consider potential projects in your state that may qualify to receive funding. Agency contact information is hyperlinked in the matrix so you can contact agencies directly to see if any projects in your area are eligible. For example: NRCS is receiving stimulus money to acquire new floodplain easements; the money can be used for restoration or removal of old mill dams and legacy sediment to restore these areas to their natural state. “Shovel ready” projects are of high consideration since the completion timeline on the funds is relatively short. If your chapter has questions, please call email me at Kait@floods.org or Diane Brown at diane@floods.org or call us at 608-274-0123.

Thank you.

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