



Resolution #2015-1

In Support of the new Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS)

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJAFM) is dedicated to reducing flood damages and loss of life due to flooding and flood related causes; and,

WHEREAS, the NJAFM is a Chapter of the Association of State Floodplain Manager and represents over 350 community officials, engineers, scientists, and other professionals working in the field of floodplain management in the State of New Jersey; and,

WHEREAS, 543 New Jersey communities have policy holders that filed claims for flood-related losses with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP; note: 546 communities in NFIP) since 1978, for a claims paid total of \$5.6 billion, with New Jersey having the second highest claims paid dollars for a state in the nation; and,

WHEREAS, New Jersey is considered a top repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss state for flood damages by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and,

WHEREAS, Hurricanes Irene (2011) and Sandy (2012) caused historic damage to the State of New Jersey and exposed the vulnerability of existing infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, flood losses are increasing, now exceeding \$10 billion each year nationally, and the current approaches, including the older standards found in Executive Order 11988, which are based on the NFIP minimums, are not working well enough to reduce losses in the country; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed Flood Risk Management Standard in EO 13690 updates EO 11988 by adding freeboard to elevate federally funded actions in floodplains for improved public health and safety; and,

WHEREAS, over half of the population in the United States and more than 20 states/US territories, including the State of New Jersey, have effectively adopted freeboard standards for floodplain development that exceed the NFIP minimum standards and over 350 communities have already adopted freeboard standards consistent with the new Executive Order; and,

WHEREAS, building community resiliency in the face of increasing flood risk due to a variety of factors, including watershed development, climate change, and rising sea level not only can help with long term community sustainability, but is also a wise investment of taxpayer dollars;



NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the NJAFM, that NJAFM:

1. Supports the development, issuance and implementation of the new FFRMS that was issued by President Obama on January 30, 2015;
2. Urges the Administration and Congress to quickly implement the FFRMS after obtaining public input; and
3. Urges federal agencies to work more cooperatively with states and communities when funding, financing or undertaking development, to consider site specific limitations and project design constraints, and to adhere to state and local standards when they are found to exceed those found in the FFRMS.

Moved by: John A. Miller, P.E., CFM, CSM

Seconded by: Craig Wenger, CFM

PASSED by the Board of the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management

Date: March 17, 2015

Attest: Richard Franks, CFM, Secretary

Contact: For more information, please contact John A. Miller, P.E., CFM, CSM, Legislative Committee Chair; cell: 609-203-8935