



Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc.

575 D'Onofrio Drive, Suite 200, Madison, WI 53719

Phone: 608-828-3000 | Email: asfpm@floods.org | Website: www.floods.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HURRICANE SANDY AID SHOULD SUPPORT RESILIENT RECOVERY

The Association of State Floodplain Managers responds to the President's request for supplemental appropriations for Hurricane Sandy

MADISON, December 12, 2012 – The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) praised key elements of the President's request for supplemental appropriations for the region affected by Hurricane Sandy, including the emphasis on rebuilding smarter to reduce the costs of future floods and hurricanes.

“Reconstruction of homes, businesses, and infrastructure is already underway and will continue throughout 2013 with a lot of public support,” said Chad Berginnis, ASFPM Executive Director. “It would be a huge waste of federal dollars to just rebuild everything as it was before. Mitigation is about rebuilding in locations and ways that reduce the costs and economic disruption from future storms.”

Independent studies show that every dollar spent mitigating flood risk saves five dollars in avoided future disaster costs. ASFPM has been working to ensure that recovery efforts and reconstruction investments result in communities that are more resilient and better able to weather future extreme weather events. Hazard mitigation programs and activities through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other federal agencies were identified in the President's request, drawing support from ASFPM.

The Association, which has more than 15,000 flood risk reduction professionals as members, praised the President's inclusion of funding for technical assistance to states and local governments to help them take the lead on managing flood-prone areas and identifying measures to reduce flood losses that can be locally managed with less federal involvement.

ASFPM also voiced strong support for a study of the nation's overall vulnerability to floods and federal programs that may be increasing flood risk, damage, and economic harms.

“Certain federal policies and programs are making floods worse by allowing or even subsidizing unwise development of hazardous areas,” noted Berginnis. The study called for by Congress and the President will identify specific improvements to federal programs to reduce the economic costs and risks to life associated with large-scale flood and storm events.

“Changes could be implemented to existing programs to drive more risk resilient decisions without spending an extra dime in federal resources,” according to Berginnis, whose organization recently completed a report for federal agencies on the effects of their programs on floodplain management.

However, ASFPM also cautioned appropriators in Congress against federal investments in large-scale flood control and beach projects where local governments allow unwise development, and are now asking for federal assistance.

“Wide beaches and large dunes offer some protection, but require maintenance after every storm,” concluded Berginnis. “Federal construction for flood control should be contingent on local proponents doing their part to reduce risk using their authorities, including smart land use planning, zoning, and building codes.”

For more information, please visit ASFPM at <http://www.floods.org>. The Association of State Floodplain Managers is an organization of professionals involved in floodplain and flood risk management, flood hazard mitigation, the National Flood Insurance Program, and flood preparedness, warning and recovery.

###

Media Contact:
Diane Brown
ASFPM Outreach and Special Events Manager
Diane@floods.org
608-444-6707