Resolution on Flood Hazard Maps

WHEREAS, the flood hazard maps produced by the National Flood Insurance Program are used in over 19,000 communities by floodplain managers, community planners, surveyors, engineers, appraisers, loan officers, map adertimination companies and emergency managers; and

WHEREAS, about half of these maps are over 10 years old, and no longer reflect the current flood hazard due to manmade and natural physical changes in the watershed, obsolete data and methodologies, or changed local boundaries or conditions, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) prepared a report, “Modernizing FEMA’s Flood Hazard Mapping Program – A Progress Report” dated November 1997; and

WHEREAS, many stream miles in thousands of communities were not studied in the past, due to time and cost constraints, and those areas are now being developed with no flood hazard data, creating tomorrow’s disasters, and

WHEREAS, said report provides a description of a proposed program to use state-of-the-art technology to cost-effectively develop accurate and complete flood hazard information, to provide the information in a readily available, easy-to-use and to update format, and to alert and educate the public regarding the risk of flood hazards; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of State Floodplain Managers, based on the recommendation of its Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee, endorses FEMA’s 1997 overall map modernization plan described in said report; and is especially supportive of:
- the changeover to digital maps,
- Development of Base Map Standards,
- Post-Disaster Flood Hazard Verification,
- the Cooperating Technical Communities Program,
- the Outreach Strategy for the Map Modernization Program; and

FURTHER, since the benefits of the Map Modernization Program go beyond hazard identification for the sale of flood insurance, including the reduction of disaster costs, which is funded by all taxpayers, the ASFPM recommends that the cost of funding the Map Modernization Program should not be entirely funded by flood insurance policy holders, but additional sources of revenue for modernizing flood maps must be found.

Adopted by the ASFPM Board of Directors; May 20, 1998