ASFPM REGION 9
DIRECTOR ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Conference—Grand Rapids, Michigan (2016)

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Introduction and Regional Overview
Region 9 represents Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the islands of Guam and American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. It serves a culturally diverse population in excess of 47 million people and covers 399,000 square miles with a breadth of more than 8,000 miles. The region’s most common challenges are hurricanes, typhoons and other storms such as atmospheric river events that can cause flooding, flash-flooding and landslides throughout the region. It also experiences earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and wildfires.

Disaster Declarations
In the last year, the Valley and Butte Wildfires in California resulted in more than $2 billion in damage, not including fire-fighting costs. More than 147,000 acres burned and 2,820 structures were destroyed in these steep and densely-forested locations. These fires took place last September and October, immediately before the beginning of a predicted severe El Niño season, with the potential for rainfall-induced landslide and debris flow on the denuded slopes.

FEMA Region IX collaborated with other federal and state partners in California, Arizona and Nevada to develop a Severe El Niño Response Plan and Exercise in advance of the beginning of the rain and snow season. The significant social and print media campaigns regarding the potential flooding caused by El Niño in past years resulted in more than 28,000 new policies to be issued in the Region 9 states. The interesting statistic to start tracking will be how many of these policies will be renewed, since El Niño did not result in flooding this year.

Mitigation and Mapping
Significant mapping activities are taking place throughout the Region 9 states, with more than 80 active projects that will result in regulatory maps and non-regulatory products. Approximately 40 projects are scheduled to have a Letter of Final Determination by the end of 2016, with effective maps within six months.
There are two regionally significant projects currently underway in California: the Open Pacific Coast project and the San Francisco Bay Area. Mapping the coastline of California from Oregon to Mexico will provide updated maps to guide development, particularly in the highly-populated areas in Southern California, while the Bay Area mapping will affect significant infrastructure development, particularly to the airline transportation and shipping industries. Sea level rise and new V-Zones will result in significant changes in these map panels.

**Region 9 State Priorities**

Some of the priorities in the Region 9 states include clarification around the installation of manufactured homes in the floodplain, permitting and construction of agricultural buildings in special flood hazard areas, and providing statewide training around these priorities. Arizona will be providing a presentation on the manufactured home issue at the annual conference.