Resolution on Coastal Erosion Mapping

WHEREAS, coastal erosion and associated erosion hazards threaten life and property in all coastal areas and result in damages to structures, including many that are insured through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); and

WHEREAS, a majority of State Coastal Zone Management programs have identified erosion mapping as a critical land use management and planning tool; and

WHEREAS, there is no existing national program in place to undertake erosion mapping along the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Great Lakes shorelines, or to support erosion mapping by individual states; and

WHEREAS, many states have developed erosion mapping methodologies that have been previously reviewed and accepted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and

WHEREAS, FEMA has an interest in identifying and mapping erosion hazard areas to more accurately define the risk and vulnerability of coastal structures, for NFIP purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Heinz Center published an independent report titled Evaluation of Erosion Hazards, as mandated by Section 577 of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-325), which includes a recommendation that FEMA map erosion hazards and disseminate the information to states; and

WHEREAS, certain federal agencies including FEMA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), are considering plans to support and/or undertake erosion hazard identification and mapping in coastal areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the ASFPM encourages FEMA, NOAA, and USGS to work cooperatively with each coastal state to develop plans and provide funding to support state efforts to map coastal erosion; and

BE IT FURTHER resolved that ASFPM encourages FEMA to provide general mapping guidelines and allow individual states to determine specific mapping parameters, based on state methodologies that have been accepted by FEMA; and

BE IT FURTHER resolved that ASFPM encourages FEMA to work with NOAA’s Office of Coastal Resource Management to coordinate erosion mapping efforts with state Coastal Management Programs; and
BE IT FURTHER resolved that ASFPM advise the Administration and Congress of the long-term benefits that will accrue from improved coastal hazard area management based on comprehensive erosion mapping in all coastal states.

APPROVAL: November 28, 2001
ATTEST: ____________________

Date
Secretary