INTRODUCTION AND REGIONAL OVERVIEW

ASFPM Region 9
Status Report 2019

Association of State Floodplain Managers

Jeanne Ruefer, PMP, CFM, Region 9 Director

April 22, 2019
**Region 9 Overview**

Region 9 represents Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and the island nations of Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. It serves a culturally diverse population in excess of 47 million people and covers almost 400,000-square-miles with a breadth of more than 8,000 miles and three time zones, including the international date line. The region’s most common disasters are hurricanes, typhoons and other storms such as atmospheric river events that can cause flooding, flash flooding and landslides. It also experiences earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and wildfires.

**Disasters**

In 2018, Region 9 continued to experience devastating fire disasters in northern and southern California, with fires starting in wildland-urban interface areas, and moving into densely populated urban environments, burning entire small towns and urban areas, claiming 86 lives and destroying approximately 14,000 residences. The fires were again followed by flooding, which resulted in a severe mudslide in Santa Barbara, California, in which dozens of homes were lost and a major coastal highway was closed for several weeks.

In addition to these wildfires and fire followed-by-flood disasters, the islands of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands were impacted by Typhoon Yutu, which caused significant damage to homes and infrastructure. The economic damage from these disasters have yet to be fully evaluated.

The eruption of Kilauea in Hawaii continues to be a slow-moving disaster, with response activities ongoing.

**NFIP, CRS & Mapping**

California is continuing to pursue changes to the NFIP relative to agricultural structures in the deep floodplains of the Central Valley.

The Island of Guam in the Pacific has reconsidered development of a government building in the VE zone while FEMA collects LiDAR in advance of remapping the coastal area.

Arizona continues to have concerns about clusters of CRS retrogrades, specifically in points awarded in CRS section 610, regarding early warning systems.
The Floodplain Management Association hosted a California Symposium in coordination with the ASFPM Foundation in April 2019. The topics included alluvial fan and debris flow flooding following fire, flood – dam nexus and emergency response for levee breaches. The symposium was attended by approximately 80 participants and will result in a summary white paper to be presented at the annual FMA conference this September before being made available to the foundation.

**Mitigation Plans**

All of the states in Region 9 updated their Hazard Mitigation Plans in 2018. As a result of the review of these plans, California lost its enhanced status due to the lack of documented grants management and has registered a protest. Region 9 has submitted a letter requesting additional documentation in order to re-consider the states’ enhanced status. Nevada retained its enhanced status as a result of a review, and Arizona is interested in pursuing enhanced status in the future.