

ASFPM REGION 9 DIRECTOR ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Conference-Atlanta, Georgia



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Region 9 represents Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and the islands of Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. Region 9 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. The region also experiences earthquakes , volcanic eruptions and wildfires.

Disaster Declarations

In the last year, the states and islands received several disaster declarations running the gamut from severe storms, flooding and landslides in American Samoa, severe storms and flooding in Arizona and Nevada, volcanic eruption and lava flow in Hawaii, and the Napa earthquake and numerous fires in California. All this activity took place within a three month period, from July through October 2014. While these disasters are significant locally, the region has not experienced a large scale flood or earthquake disaster in many years.

Mitigation and Mapping

Significant mapping activities are taking place throughout the Region 9 states, with more than 150 active projects that will result in regulatory maps and non-regulatory products. Since January 2015 approximately 20 projects have started data development, six projects have been issued as preliminary, and 14 projects have reached the Letter of Final Determination stage, to be issued as 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.

Significant State Events and Accomplishments

The state chapters are typically venues for training and sponsoring CFM exams. Some significant events include sponsoring the L273 course in Nevada and Arizona, presentation of the Foundation's Flood Risk Symposium in Arizona, and formation of Silver Jacket teams in California and Nevada. The California Office of Emergency Services hosted the FEMA listening session for Executive Order 13690 in March. The California-Nevada chapter also hosted a listening session for its membership in March.