Floodplain Manager of the Year Award – John Cain

This award seeks to recognize outstanding individual or team efforts and contributions to floodplain management. The Floodplain Manager of the Year is designed to honor an individual or team responsible for the development or implementation of a distinguished local program or activity. This award is given by the Association to individuals or teams who are highly instrumental in carrying forward the goals and objectives of floodplain management.

This esteemed 2017 award is being given to John Cain in recognition of his leadership and stewardship as Director of Conservation for CA Floodplain Management at American Rivers.org. Over the last 15 years, his work has focused on the interrelated issues of river restoration, water supply management, and flood risk reduction in California’s Central Valley and the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

He has advocated, analyzed, and planned tidal marsh and river restoration projects the Delta and San Joaquin River resulting in the 1,200 acre Dutch Slough tidal marsh restoration project. John has also made key technical contributions to the historic San Joaquin River Settlement to restore over 100 miles of river that had been virtually dry for half a century. He served as a member of the Delta Vision stakeholder committee, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Steering Committee, and as co-chair of BDCP technical committees.

His current work focuses on integrating the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan with the BDCP to achieve multiple benefits public safety, water supply, and ecosystem function. Prior to his work in the Central Valley, he served as the staff scientist for the Mono Lake Committee where he participated in the precedent setting effort to “Save Mono Lake” and restore fisheries to its freshwater tributaries.

Award for Excellence – CVFPP Update

This award seeks to find and recognize outstanding floodplain management projects, programs and/or activities. Eligible entries include local, regional, and national government (such as cities, towns, counties, State, and Federal agencies), special districts, and private consulting engineers/firms. Eligible entries include either an overall program or a specific project or activity which epitomizes the best in floodplain management.

One of the three 2017 Awards for Excellence goes to the California Department of Water Resource, Flood Planning Branch for the Central Valle Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) Update. The CVFPP is a comprehensive and long-range flood risk management plan, which was first adopted in 2012. The CA DWR prepared the 2017 CVFPP Update on behalf of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board) and for the benefit of the people of California.

This 5-year effort built on the previous planning cycle with greater focus on developing partnerships through an unprecedented stakeholder engagement process; integration with broader water resources objectives; and identifying policy issues that impede effective flood risk management. DWR partnered with the CVFPP Board to expand stakeholder participation, which has resulted in an open and transparent process and broad acceptance of the first update to the CVFPP.

The regional flood management planning effort included six regions of the Central Valley and serves as a commendable model for future water resources planning that considers the diverse interests of its constituents. In line with the Governor’s Water Action Plan, DWR has emphasized a diverse portfolio of actions to improve flood risk management while addressing other water management imperatives, such as water supply and ecosystem function. With its commitment to long-term, multi-benefit water management actions that reduce flood risk, DWR has demonstrated leadership on an issue of vital importance to all Californians.
**Award for Excellence – Folsom Dam WCM Update**

This award seeks to find and recognize outstanding floodplain management projects, programs and/or activities. Eligible entries include local, regional, and national government (such as cities, towns, counties, State, and Federal agencies), special districts, and private consulting engineers/firms. Eligible entries include either an overall program or a specific project or activity which epitomizes the best in floodplain management.

One of the three 2017 Awards for Excellence goes to Sacramento District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in recognition of the Water Management Section’s and Hydrologic Section’s role in preparing the “Folsom Water Control Manual Update Project”. The award is for their team’s/project’s advancement of state-of-the-art forecasting and efficient reservoir operation at Folsom Dam. This manual update project permits water managers greater flexibility to balance the competing objectives of water supply and flood control for the Sacramento area. Prior to the update, the Water Control Manual (WCM) prescribed rigid operation rules, which did not explicitly incorporate forecasts of weather and watershed conditions in release decision making.

With the addition of the new Folsom auxiliary spillway underway, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which operate the dam in partnership, seized the opportunity to modernize the WCM while integrating the new release capabilities provided by the improvements. These agencies partnered with the California Nevada River Forecast Center to integrate state-of-the-art forecast products with reservoir release decision making. Collaboration with the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, California Department of Water Resources, and agency contractors, was also integral to the project’s success.

**Award for Excellence – Delta Levees Investment Strategy**

This award seeks to find and recognize outstanding floodplain management projects, programs and/or activities. Eligible entries include local, regional, and national government (such as cities, towns, counties, State, and Federal agencies), special districts, and private consulting engineers/firms. Eligible entries include either an overall program or a specific project or activity which epitomizes the best in floodplain management.

One of the three 2017 Awards for Excellence goes to the Delta Stewardship Council and its Delta Levees Investment Strategy (DLIS) team. The Delta Reform Act directed the Delta Stewardship Council to develop a methodology to prioritize state investments in Delta levees. That 27 million Californians and three million acres of farmland depend on the Delta for water is a testament to its importance to the state’s economy. Much of the Delta is below sea level and is protected by 1,100 miles of levees.

People, water supply, the Delta ecosystem, and infrastructure are dependent on levees for flood risk reduction. Delta levees, however, are threatened by earthquakes; by seepage through aged embankments; and by overtopping made worse by subsidence and sea level rise. Catastrophic levee failure would be devastating to people, water supply, infrastructure, the Delta ecosystem, and California’s economy. Flood risk in the Delta cannot be eliminated, and levels-of-protection methods address only the hazard while ignoring consequences.

The Council elected to use tolerable risk guidelines (TRG) to inform investment priorities. TRGs support policy formulation, inform risk management decisions, enable evaluation of trade-offs, and promote clear and transparent risk communications. TRGs recognize that the Delta is complex, the future is uncertain, and that absolute protection is not possible. Application of the TRG process resulted in identification of levee investment priorities, which will be incorporated in the Delta Plan.
Hogg-Owen Award for Meritorious Achievement in the Floodplain Management Association - A. Jean Brown

This award recognizes individuals who have achieved success in a significant activity that benefits the Floodplain Management Association. The activities shall include, but not be limited to, education, government, policy, research, litigation, outreach, implementation or other actions which demonstrate the advancement of the Association.

This year’s award is being given to A. Jean Brown, one of the founding FMA members who helped organize the first CA Floodplain Management group. He was instrumental in advancing floodplain management and improving building standards locally in CA and nationally with ASFPM. A. Jean had 34 years of service at CA DWR and was the Water Resources Supervising Engineer when he retired in 1992.

For 12 years before retirement, he served as the State Coordinator for Floodplain Management and served as chief of the FPM Branch, coordinating the flood loss reduction efforts of Federal, State, and Local communities in CA. For 9 years before that, A. Jean was Branch Chief and State Coordinator of the CA Cooperative Snow Survey Program that provided training and coordination of the snow data gathering efforts of 40 agencies within CA.

A. Jean has an impressive list of accomplishments with FMA and ASFPM. Among them: he had NFIP requirements included in CA Building Codes, he started the “Golden State Floodlight” publication on floodplain management efforts in CA, and served numerous roles nationally within ASFPM. We can also thank A. Jean for helping establish the Arid West Conference and work on its unique challenges in floodplain management.

Communications and Outreach Award – Juan Browne

This award was established to acknowledge exemplary efforts in communications and outreach on the part of communications media (written and/or visual), the incorporation of new technologies, or the novel use of existing technologies to increase information and/or awareness of flood issues with the general public.

This year’s award is given to Juan Browne in recognition of his continuing activities and excellent work as a credentialed reporter for the Grass Valley Union Newspaper. Mr. Browne is also a commercial and private plane pilot. He has produced and served as the commentator on 51 YouTube videos related to the Oroville Dam Spillway Emergency. The Oroville Dam and Spillway YouTube videos have had over 5,225,000 views. His video channel has over 30,000 subscribers and each Oroville video results in 200 to 300 comments.

The Oroville videos provide “plain speak” public information and have assisted the Northern California community (and others) gain a better understanding of the events at Oroville Dam and the spillway(s) repair program and progress. Many of the videos include a flyover of the Oroville Dam Complex by Mr. Browne in his vintage 1946 Luscombe 8A/0200 single engine airplane.

Mr. Browne has provided a great service to the community and has displayed a great talent and ability to explain complex dam and spillway issues and communicate them in an understandable way. He is ushering in a new form of visual and video oriented social media based communications outside the mainstream commercial outlets.

Goddard Award for Outstanding Article in Floodplain Management – Wai Halana Hawaii Flood News

This award recognizes technical contributions to the FMA newsletter, which is published quarterly.

This year’s award is being given to the Wai Halana Hawaii Flood News (May 2017 newsletter). The link to this newsletter is found in each quarterly FMA newsletter. It was founded by the late Sterling Yong in the 1990’s and continues to prosper under supervision of the dedicated staff at the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Engineering Division.

Over the years, the Hawaii Flood Management News has evolved from a casual newsletter to a high quality publication and more. Understanding that they had a diverse readership, and not only floodplain mangers were interested, a change was needed After much thought on a new name that would be relevant to their mission and unique to the local culture,
they decided on “Wai Halana”. In Hawaiian the word “Wai” means “water” while “Halana” has a meaning of “overflow”. Together, “Wai Halana” means “Flood”. So, it was in January 2007 that it began publishing as the Wai Halana Hawaii Flood News

In 2009, Wai Halana received an FMA media award, and in that same year their Flood Hazard Assessment Tool (FHAT) won an ESRI Special Achievement Award.

Readership has risen dramatically through public outreach efforts. The newsletter continues to thrive with 795 online subscribers and over 300 printed copies mailed to Hawaiian Island constituents. To sign up for their electronic mailing list, interested individuals can subscribe at their website: www.hawaiinfip.org.

**Andy Lee Award for Extraordinary Public Service for State Activities – Gary Bardini**

*This award is given to individuals who have made extraordinary proactive flood management contributions benefiting the public, especially in the area of encouraging multi-benefit projects and/or flood education. The award is given to honor public sector recipients. This award honors Andy Lee who retired from state service after 41 years and initiated and strengthened many California floodplain management programs, including the mapping and outreach programs.*

The Andy Lee Award for 2017 is being given to Gary Bardini in recognition of his past role as Deputy Director at the CA Department of Water Resource, and for his broad vision for sustainable water management, and advancement of the goals and objectives in floodplain management and flood protection here at FMA.

Furthermore, Gary’s efforts in encouraging agency collaboration and developing innovative solutions have been critical to improving public safety, reducing California’s flood risk, and serving as a model for national flood and water management programs.

The FMA award that is not given every year, but represents Gary's exceptional public service is the Andy Lee Award for Extraordinary Public Service for State Activities. Gary is well-deserving of this honor and highly recommended for this award.

**Integrated Floodplain Management Award – City & County of San Francisco**

*This award is given to individuals or project teams who have prepared and/or implemented a locally-approved, state-approved, or federally-approved multi-objective flood management plan. Candidate projects should demonstrate innovative advancements in water management as well as collaborative partnerships with community groups and the general public. Project outcomes should benefit many stakeholder interests such as environmental, flood control, recreational, and emergency planning and responsiveness.*

This year’s award is being given to the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF), and their multi-disciplinary team of experts and staff. The group was led by Mayor Ed Lee, Naomi M. Kelly, City Administrator and Capital Planning Committee Chair, and David Behar from San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. It is being given in recognition of their collective leadership in the development and implementation of the “Guidance for Incorporating Sea Level Rise into Capital Planning in San Francisco: Assessing Vulnerability and Risk to Support Adaptation”.

Initially adopted in 2014, this Guidance presents a framework for considering sea level rise within the capital planning process for the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF). According to the OneSF.ORG website: “As new infrastructure projects are planned along the shoreline, or existing assets are modified or improved, flooding due to rising sea levels – in combination with storm surge and wave run up – must be evaluated.” Key issues related to sea level rise adaptation planning are covered in this guidance. With so many potential adaptation strategies available, selecting the appropriate adaptation measures requires site and project specific information.

A few months ago, the Guidance won the Prize for Progress from the American Society of Adaptation Professionals.