



FMA News

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Highlights

Conference Highlights	2
Federal News	3
State News—California	3
State News—Hawaii	7
Meet the Board	7
Letter from the Chair Continued	9
In-depth Articles	10

Letter from the Chair

It's Fall, the leaves are changing (yes, even in California) and the rain is back. It's been great to start off the rainy season with record rainfall (at least in some parts of the West), but I can't think of anything better than the kickoff we had at the Annual Conference held in Sacramento in September. In case you missed it, we had record setting attendance at this year's conference. With nearly 700 in attendance, we surpassed our previous record by over 100. Not only was our attendance at its peak, so was the participation by our local, state and federal agency members. The ability to hear from and interact with our public agency staff at this level can't be found at any other venue.



We also added a couple of new activities with the conference this year that I am very proud of. For the first time, we held a conference logo design contest. Students from local high schools were invited to submit their designs to represent the conference theme – Building Community Resilience Through Action. Our winning logo was submitted by a high school student Melody Keenan, who wants to become a graphic artist. I think she is well on her way based on what she submitted. Her design was the major focal point of the commemorative coins that were handed out to all of our keynote and panel speakers (also new this year). The second major activity added this year was the Community Service Project held Tuesday evening in the Exhibit Hall. All conference attendees were invited to help stuff over 200 backpacks with school and hygiene supplies. The backpacks were then presented to the, Mustard Seed which is a school program for homeless kids



(Continued on page 9)

2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

What an amazing 2016 Annual Conference, Building Community Resilience Through Action, we had in Sacramento with everything from philanthropic endeavors to historical tours to plenaries and more.

Tuesday got off to a great start with the California Extreme Precipitation Symposium, Future Directions of Weather Forecasting and Reservoir Operations. With approximately 150 in attendance, the symposium offered something for everyone. The Sacramento Weir tour, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the weir, was a popular event and was filled to capacity with media coverage aired that evening.

Tuesday evening, FMA hosted our first community service event. Two hundred backpacks were filled with items needed by homeless school-age children and given to the Mustard Seed School in Sacramento. Thank you to our sponsors HDR and Stantec, donating over 200 backpacks with health/hygiene and school supplies!

Wednesday, our plenary kicked off the opening of the conference with messages from our three co-chairs, Alicia Kirchner, Michael Mierzwa and Bill Busath, as well as our informative and entertaining keynote speaker, Major General Michael Walsh and welcome speaker, Sacramento Vice Mayor Rick Jennings. The awards luncheon was a success with the keynote address delivered by West Sacramento's highly engaging Mayor Chris Cabaldon. It was at the luncheon that we honored our first-ever conference logo contest winner from Elk Grove High School. Congratulations to our many awards winners!

We held over 20 panels and 90 technical sessions. Please see the [conference program](#) for details on these presentations. Additionally, the Thursday evening event was a trip to the Railroad Museum including historical presentations and a walking tour of the flood history of Old Sacramento.

Friday concluded our conference with more technical sessions, two Folsom Dam tours and a Silver Jackets meeting which included the charter signing. If you happened to miss this year's conference, be sure not to miss out in 2017 when we are in Long Beach, California, September 5-8. Hope to see you all there!



California Silver Jackets Team Charter Signed at the 2016 Floodplain Management Association Conference. (Photo Courtesy of: California Department of Water Resources)