



FMA News

The Newsletter of the Floodplain Management Association

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### Letter from the Chair

This is my last Letter to you as your Chair and it has been surprisingly difficult to write. I have tried reflecting over the last two years as your Chair, as well as the last twelve years as a Board Member, to see if I could put to words what it has meant to be part of this great organization. But what keeps coming back to me is this organization is not about looking back, nor is the Board. Our focus is, and should continue to be, looking forward. That doesn't mean we don't learn from our past. We are continuously evaluating how we have done on past events to know how we can improve on future activities. That is one of the reasons we invite all past Chairs to attend Board Meetings and participate in Committee activities. The wealth of knowledge our past Board Members bring is priceless. But looking forward should be our main focus and, although we have accomplished a lot, there is still more work to be done.



I had identified a number of initiatives at the start of my term that I wanted to focus on. One of those areas was Community Outreach. Along with the Student Outreach initiative that our Vice Chair Maria Lorenzo-Lee has so passionately championed, our efforts to not only engage the community in our activities, but to actually do something directly for the community, is the achievement I am most proud of. At our 2016 Conference in Sacramento, we stuffed over 200 backpacks full of school and hygiene supplies for the homeless families supported by the Mustard Seed. We are looking to do something very similar for the Long Beach Rescue Mission at this year's conference in Long Beach, so please stop by Tuesday evening at the Exhibit Hall Opening Social and lend a hand.

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# REGISTER TODAY!



**2017 FMA Annual Conference**  
**Building Community Resilience through Action**  
**September 5-8, 2017**  
**The Hyatt Regency, Long Beach, CA**

You are invited to participate in the premier Annual Conference in Floodplain Management of the West! This popular event brings together nearly 600 attendees from government, academia, private sector and non-profits to discuss the latest strategies, tools and technologies in floodplain and flood risk management. The conference offers critical policy panel discussions, an extensive multi-track technical program, invaluable networking opportunities, professional training workshops, field trips and a world-class Exhibition Program. Space is limited!