

**FEMA Update
NEHRP AECHR Meeting
Dec 17–18, 2008
Berkeley, CA**

❖ **Introduction**

- FY 2008 was a productive and eventful year for FEMA's NEHRP program with updates in the areas of program initiatives, new products, authorization activity, staffing and resources. First the highlights and then some details –
 - We started a new initiative with the business community to promote earthquake awareness and mitigation. The effort is called Quake Smart and we are looking with the Safe America Foundation and various Chambers of Commerce to build partnerships to promote mitigation
 - Several new publications were completed this year including guidance on vertical evacuation in tsunami-prone areas, quantification of building seismic performance factors and the soon to be released 2009 NEHRP Recommended Provisions
 - There have been a number of developments related to HQ and regional earthquake program staffing with folks both coming and going
 - As a result of efforts over the last few years, the FEMA's NEHRP program will be receiving an increase to its' base funding level to support State Assistance efforts in addition to some program activity support
- As a reminder to everyone, FEMA Funds four (4) Earthquake Consortia which provides guidance and assistance to states and local communities by:
 - Helping local communities take action and reduce risks from earthquakes before they occur
 - Facilitating inter-state and regional communication, coordination, collaboration - act as an information exchange through sponsored conferences
 - Helping deliver professional training to local communities
 - Educating citizens about the risks they face, and developing public awareness and education tools and resources
 - Encouraging public and private partnerships that benefit local communities
- The FEMA NEHRP program couldn't be successful without these partnerships and without all of you as partners

❖ New Initiatives, Outreach, and Strategic Communications

- QuakeSmart
 - Increase awareness of earthquake risks for businesses
 - Create awareness and then encourage businesses to take action to reduce earthquake risks
 - 4 communities so far (Emeryville, CA/ Reno, NV/ Cape Girardeau, MO/ Evansville, IN)
 - Videos, PSA's, brochures and other outreach to print and television media
 - Over 300 businesses so far
 - Next steps include a regional business meeting, a national partner and a national marketing event
- MOU w/ the International Code Council (ICC)
 - Captures in writing many of the ongoing partnership activities already going on such as the ICC-500 Tornado Shelter Standard
 - Serves to institutionalize a long and successful partnership
 - Highlights our desire to minimize weakening amendments to national codes when adopted locally
 - Identifies ICC desire to provide more support in post-disaster environment (through cooperative arrangements and/or mutual aide agreements)
- Performance Based Seismic Design
 - Methodology under development – completed in 2010
 - Part of a 10-year, multi-million dollar effort to develop next generation of seismic design procedure and standards
- Existing Buildings Activity
 - Rover tool being developed for pre- and post-event evaluation
 - A PDA-based tool with electronic linking and data transmission capability
 - Being pilot tested by the LA Unified School District
- NETAP
 - \$200K again in FY 2009
 - Training delivery is the most frequent use of funds through Regions and States (hospital training in MO for example)

❖ **Adoption of Modern Building Codes and Working with Model Building Code Organizations**

- Code adoption is corner stone of effective mitigation
- Code Hearings and Code Changes Fall 08
 - The fall 08 code cycle was very successful in that FEMA's proposals to improve seismic protection for residential light frame (conventional) construction in the ICC Bldg Code were adopted – thus providing an equivalency within the IBC to the IRC for Single Family Detached housing
 - The reason this is important is that the non adoption of the IRC by many states and the previous lack of provisions for seismic safety of Single Family Detached Housing within the IBC meant a safety gap within much of the nations' new housing construction.

❖ **FY09 FEMA NEHRP Staffing**

- Regions I, IV, V, VI, IX, and X have all had changes in their EQ Program Managers in the last year or so
 - The Region I is currently vacant
 - Joe Rachel has moved to the Preparedness Directorate and Bud Plisich is filling in while that position is filled
 - JP Marsh has been the EQ manager in Region V for awhile now as has Kent Baxter in Region VI
 - Jeff Lusks' promotion created a vacancy in Region IX which has been recently filled by Johanna Fenton and Chris J-T's promotion in Region X resulted in the hiring of Tamra Biasco earlier this year
 - On the HQ side of the house, you're all aware that Anita Vollmer retired earlier this year. We're in the process of filling her vacancy – hopefully by the end of the calendar year
 - Mike Tong joined FEMA a little over a year ago – he came to us from the MCEER center in Buffalo, NY and he works closely with Mike Mahoney on some of our more technical projects
 - The big news for FY 2009 is the approval to fill four new positions to support NEHRP activities, particularly our re-vitalized State assistance effort, support for regional activity and our guidance development and technical work

❖ **FY09 FEMA NEHRP Resources**

- Along with the four new positions, the Building Science Branch received an increase to our base funding to support State Assistance and building science-related activities. With these increases, our earthquake efforts are supported by –
- \$5.4M Programmatic Funding
 - Modest increase for guidance development, publication development and dissemination
 - Level support for NETAP support, training development and delivery
 - Additional funding covers staff salaries, travel, and printing
- \$2.3M Assistance for State Earthquake Programs
 - Re-established in FY09 at ½ its' previous level
 - FY09 will be an interim year for State assistance as the program is set up similar to previous EMPG assistance. Vulnerability and exposure with both be factors
 - Eligible activities:
 - ✓ Developing local capability to conduct seismic safety inspection of critical structures and lifelines
 - ✓ Promoting, developing, publishing of model building codes including adoption and enforcement of codes containing latest seismic safety provisions
 - ✓ Educating the public, state and local governments about earthquake risk and means and methods to mitigate/reduce risk
 - ✓ Public awareness/preparedness campaigns
 - ✓ Etc
- \$925KM Earthquake Consortia
 - CUSEC, WSSPC, NESEC, CREW
 - Represents return to FY07 funding levels for CUSEC funding

❖ **Multi-Hazard Grants**

- Encourage States and local jurisdictions to mitigate
- Encourage States and local jurisdictions to use available mitigation tools of funding and grants
 - PDM is a multi-hazard program; sometimes it is bricks and mortar mitigation; earthquake accounts for significant number of awards annually
 - HMGP grants are tied to specific disaster and allow for variety of activity
 - EMPG is the home of the former NEHRP State support and mitigation continues to seek more visibility for earthquake activities within this program

❖ **Forecast of the NEHRP and Consortia Partnership**

- Continuing Funding and Partnership with Consortia integral and crucial function of NEHRP
 - Fulfills FEMA requirement to operate a program of grants and assist to states and local jurisdictions
 - Fulfills FEMA requirement to fund various risk reduction activities

❖ **Closing**

- FY 2008 was a productive year and we're looking forward to even more activity in FY 2009
 - Additional resources for FEMA NEHRP is good news for State Assistance, regional support and increased program implementation activity
 - New initiatives like Quake Smart get out the word on earthquake mitigation
 - Continued success in the building codes means disaster-resistant construction
 - FEMA Regional Earthquake managers are key to NEHRP implementation – their role will grow w/ State Assistance Support