

# Acronyms for Adaptation

Catharine Cyr Ransom

Principal

The Accord Group



# Stafford Act

- Structured approach to disasters
- Partnership between local, state, Federal governments
- Authority resides with the President
- Individual Federal agency responsibilities
- History and current status



# Acronyms

- HMGP/PDM
- NFIP
- WRDA
- CZMA
- CBRA



# DMA 2000, HMGP, PDM

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
  - Require mitigation planning by states and localities and provide pre and post disaster mitigation funding.
- 2007: Congressional Budget Office found that projects funded through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program between 2004 and June 2007 resulted in a reduction of future disaster spending of approximately \$3 for every \$1.
- 2005: Multihazard Mitigation Council (MMC) of the National Institute of Building Science (NIBS) found that on average, a dollar spend by FEMA on hazard mitigation (actions to reduce disaster losses) provides the nation about \$4 in future benefits.



# 111<sup>th</sup> Congress

- Committees of jurisdiction
- Expired authorization extended annually
- 110<sup>th</sup> Congress: H.R. 6109 and S. 3175 not enacted.



# Existing Mitigation Agenda

- The Multihazard Mitigation Council (MMC) of the National Institute of Building Science (NIBS) 2005 study: “Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves.” The study found that on average, a dollar spend by FEMA on hazard mitigation (actions to reduce disaster losses) provides the nation about \$4 in future benefits.
  - Invest in natural hazard mitigation as a matter of policy on an ongoing basis both before disasters occur and through federally funded disaster recovery and rebuilding activities and programs.
  - Support mitigation activities that will increase the resilience of communities by increasing knowledge and promoting institutional commitments to mitigation at the local level.
  - Support ongoing evaluation of mitigation by developing a structured process for assessing the performance of buildings and infrastructure after all types of natural disaster and by measuring the benefits that accrue from process mitigation activities.



# NFIP

- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- Provides Federal flood insurance to property holders in participating communities and requires limited mitigation in flood-prone areas.
- 110<sup>th</sup> Congress: Program extended through March 6, 2009 after reauthorization was not completed



# WRDA

- Water Resources Development Act
- Authorizes projects and establishes policies guiding the Army Corps of Engineers which constructs flood control, hurricane protection, navigation, and ecosystem restoration projects throughout the country.
- Challenge 21 mitigation program
- 2007 enactment following 6 – year effort to incorporate reforms
- 111<sup>th</sup> Congress: WRDA 2009 planned



# CZMA

- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Seeks to preserve, protect, and restore or enhance resources in the coastal zone in part by providing authority and resources for states to develop extensive plans to guide development decisions
- 111<sup>th</sup> Congress reauthorization pending after S. 1579 and H.R. 5451 were not enacted.



# CBRA

- Coastal Barrier Resources Act
- Identified environmentally-sensitive coastal areas with limited or no development that would be ineligible for Federal flood insurance
- Recognized environmental impacts of developments in coastal zone and role of Federal subsidies in driving development decisions



# Remove incentives for development in high risk areas

- NFIP
- CZMA
- WRDA
- States



# Invest in the restoration of and increased protection for natural buffers for flooding

- WRDA
- PDM/HMGP
- CBRA



# Reconsider the Strategy of Levees

- WRDA
  - National Levee Safety Program
- NFIP



# Take global warming into account in building practices

- 110<sup>th</sup> Congress activity
- H.R. 3926: Safe Building Code Incentives Act
- H.R. 4461/S. 2458: Community Building Code Administration Grant Act of 2007



# Allow Insurance Rates to Reflect Risk Exposure

- CBRA
- NFIP
- Stafford Act



# Stafford Act

- *It is the intent of Congress, by this Act, to provide an orderly and continuing means of assistance by the Federal government to State and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to alleviate the suffering and damage which result from such disasters by --...*
  - (4) *encouraging individuals, States, and local governments to protect themselves by obtaining insurance coverage to supplement or replace governmental assistance.*



Reduce global warming pollution  
to minimize future catastrophic risk