Recommendations for an Effective National Mitigation Effort

James M. Mullen

Chair, NEMA Mitigation Committee
Director, Washington State Emergency Management Division

NEMA Mitigation White Paper and Major Mitigation Issues
Mitigation Report Background

- Collective effort began in January 2009
- FEMA / NEMA Cooperative Agreement
- Many associations contributed
- White Paper released July 2009
- Endorsed by 16 organizations
Endorsing Organizations

• American Public Works Association
• American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
• Association of Bermuda Insurers and Reinsurers (ABIR)
• Association of State Flood Plain Managers (ASFPM)
• Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC)
• Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
• Institute for Building Technology and Safety (IBTS)
• Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS)
• International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)
• International City/County Management Association (ICMA)
• International Code Council (ICC)
• National Association of Counties (NACo)
• National Emergency Management Association (NEMA)
• Reinsurance Association of America (RAA)
• Western States Seismic Policy Council
• US Chamber of Commerce
Catalyst for Mitigation Paper

- Need National Mitigation Strategy
- Stress Mitigation as an Investment
- Use Studies to Prove Mitigation Works
- Promote Mitigation Programs / Case Studies
Strategic Themes in White Paper

- Broader Collaborative Partnerships
- Total Hazard Awareness
- Full Spectrum - Community to Federal Emphasis
Necessary Elements of a National Mitigation Strategy

- Strive for Common or Symbiotic Objectives
- Seek Out and Encourage Activities Where the Benefits are Intuitive
- Embed Mitigation in Policy Development as Broadly as Possible
- Demand Open Dialogue
Necessary Elements of a National Mitigation Strategy

- Educate and Embrace Federal, State, and Local Officials
- Create a Body of Knowledge of Mitigation Tools, Resources, Practices, and Successes
- Emphasize Incentive, Not Punitive Mitigation Policies
- Don’t Get Stuck on Definitions
- Measure, Capture, and Celebrate Success
The Future of Disaster Mitigation

Integrating Operations, Insurance, and Building Codes into the Overall Mitigation Strategy

Panelists:
- Craig Fugate, FEMA Administrator
- Jim Mullen, NEMA Mitigation Committee Chair
- Debra Ballen, IBHS General Counsel, Sr. Vice President
- Michael Armstrong, ICC Sr. Vice President
Next Steps

- Formation of National Mitigation Collaboration Alliance
- Invigorate Grass Roots Participation
- Encourage Broader Partnerships
- Integrate Mitigation with Other Programs and Initiatives