



# News from Region 10

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## ***Newsletter Ideas?***

*Do you want to spread the word about an upcoming event or recent success story? Let us know what you'd like to see in future issues! Articles can be up to 500 words and may include pictures. **Email:** [RXNewsletter@starr-team.com](mailto:RXNewsletter@starr-team.com).*

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## FEMA Releases First Ever Post-Disaster Equity Guide for Local Officials Rebuilding Communities

FEMA has published “[Achieving Equitable Recovery: A Post-Disaster Guide for Local Officials and Leaders](#),” a first of its kind framework to help rebuild communities in a more accessible, inclusive and equitable manner. This document provides guidance for local leaders and officials to understand, prepare for and execute their leadership responsibilities to promote equity, create accountability, establish an inclusive recovery planning process and recover from disasters while rebuilding long-lasting inclusivity.

*“From day one of my tenure, I have asked our agency to put the needs of the diverse communities we serve first. This has meant finding new, creative ways to better support these communities as they recover and rebuild after a disaster strikes,”*

*said FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell.*

*“This new guide offers fresh insights and strategies for local officials and leaders to ensure the work they are doing to rebuild their communities is done with inclusivity, accountability and equity top of mind.”*

This guide supports local officials and leaders in their efforts to identify needs, establish critical partnerships, leverage new opportunities, conduct strategic public engagement and make a strong case for recovery in an equitable manner. The guide is organized around eight goals focused on approaches to engaging and identifying the needs of all community members and ensuring a more accessible, inclusive and equitable recovery planning process.

This is just the latest example of how FEMA puts people first in its program and policies. In September, Administrator Criswell and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) President Derrick Johnson signed an agreement outlining ways in which the two organizations will work together to help people before, during and after disasters, building on the first agreement that was signed by the two organizations in 2013. Since the start of this Administration, FEMA made significant changes to the Individual Assistance application process, leading to over 158,000 survivors receiving assistance who would have previously been ineligible. This has resulted in more than \$926 million in additional assistance for survivors. In [FEMA’s 2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#), the agency is committed to a goal of “Instilling Equity as a Foundation of Emergency Management.”

Earlier this year, FEMA hosted a series of 60-minute webinar sessions to provide an overview of the draft guide and gather feedback from whole community partners. Much of that feedback was incorporated in the [final document](#).

To learn more about this guide and other similar initiatives, please visit [FEMA’s press release webpage](#).

## FEMA Completes Public Comment Period | Proposed Rulemaking on Implementation of FFRMS

The [National Environmental Policy Act](#) and [Executive Order \(EO\) 11988 on Floodplain Management](#) mandate that federal agencies evaluate their actions to avoid adverse impacts to floodplains and to avoid supporting development in areas at risk of flooding. The Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) updates the requirements of EO 11988, directing agencies to use more rigorous criteria for determining acceptable levels of flood risk for federally funded projects and to incorporate natural features or nature-based solutions into project design that reduce local flood risk and increase resilience against flooding.

The FFRMS applies only to federally funded actions involving new construction, substantial improvement, or repairs to substantial damage. FFRMS also applies to hazard mitigation projects involving structure elevation, dry floodproofing, and mitigation reconstruction.

Applying the FFRMS will allow FEMA to consider best available and actionable climate science in making projects and communities more resilient to increases in flood conditions.

FEMA held a 60-day public comment period on the proposed rule and companion policy from Oct. 2 – Dec. 1, 2023, in the Federal Register.

*To view feedback submitted by the public during this comment period, please visit [this website](#).*

## Upcoming Policy Forum on Nature-based Solutions | February 7 – 8, 2024 | Washington, DC

The Network for Engineering with Nature and the National Academy of Sciences' (NAS) Gulf Research Program are hosting a Policy Forum on Nature-based Solutions on **February 7 – 8, 2024, in Washington DC**. The event is free and open to the public, bringing together policymakers, regulators, practitioners, academics, and others involved in the funding, policymaking, design, and/or construction of nature-based solutions.



This forum will delve into the transformative potential of nature-based solutions for infrastructure development, climate change solutions, and community revitalization. This event will provide an opportunity to identify and discuss major obstacles in the policy and practitioner space, in order to effectively implement nature-based solutions. There will be a specific focus on financing nature-based solutions and the permitting processes involved, as well as ensuring nature-based solutions projects are carried out in an equitable and just way.

This event promises to foster actionable dialogues to enhance the implementation and impact of nature-based solutions on a global scale.

*A detailed agenda including session titles, speakers, & facilitators for each day can be viewed [here](#).*

*If you'd like to register for the Policy Forum on Nature-based Solutions, please visit [this webpage](#). There will be no registration fee.*

*\*There will be no hotel room block provided for this conference. Guests attending from out of town may consider making a reservation at one of the following hotels located within one mile of the NAS Building: ARC Hotel, State Plaza Hotel, The River Inn, The Watergate Hotel, and Hotel Lombardy.*

### **Ask the Help Desk:**

The Region 10 Service Center is here to help local community officials and stakeholders with technical, training, mitigation, and mapping questions. **Email:** [RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com](mailto:RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com).

## **Online Training Calendar**

(All times Pacific)

Course	Date/Time	Continuing Education Credits (CECs)
CRS: Annual CRS Requirements	January 16, 10 am	1.5
CRS: FEMA Elevation Certificate	January 17, 10 am	1.5
STARR II: Permitting Floodplain Development	January 25, 9 am	1
STARR II: Inspecting Floodplain Development	January 25, 10:30 am	1.5
CRS: Introduction to the CRS	February 20, 10 am	1
CRS: CRS & Substantial Damage Properties Management Plans	February 21, 10 am	1



To register for online courses, visit STARR II's training site: [j.mp/starronlinetraining](http://j.mp/starronlinetraining), or email [RXTraining@starr-team.com](mailto:RXTraining@starr-team.com).

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