

August 19, 2008

*FROM: R. David Paulison
Administrator*

*SUBJECT: Departure of David Maurstad,
Assistant Administrator, Mitigation Directorate*

With sadness, I have accepted David Maurstad's resignation as Assistant Administrator for Mitigation and Administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program. David's resignation will be effective September 13, 2008.

David joined FEMA nearly seven years ago, first as Region 8 Director where he was the senior FEMA official on-hand for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. In June of 2004, David came to Washington, DC, first as Acting Assistant Administrator for Mitigation before being named Assistant Administrator. During his tenure, the Mitigation Directorate has faced a number of storms, but has also been transformed into a world-class, outcome-based organization.

David joined the Mitigation Directorate when the agency, and the NFIP, in particular, was under fire for the response to Hurricane Isabel. During that same year, the NFIP faced the record-breaking 2004 hurricane season in Florida which was then followed by the extraordinary challenges of the 2005 hurricane triumvirate: Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

Since then, Mitigation has updated and digitized the Nation's flood maps; administered the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in the wake of Katrina; and, developed quick and creative solutions to help the Gulf Coast recover as quickly as possible. Now, more than 16,000 communities have created mitigation plans and more than 1 million more people have chosen to protect themselves from flooding through flood insurance. Truly, under his leadership, confidence in the Nation's flood insurance program has been restored.

In addition, the Mitigation Directorate has refocused America's attention on failing levee systems and supported thousands of grants for safe rooms and building hardening and elevations and acquisitions. They have made people more aware of their risks for earthquakes and wildfires and educated them on how to take actions to protect themselves. They continue to work with states and communities on hurricanes and dam safety and have provided

the tools and resources they need to help themselves. They also have provided advice and counsel on preserving America's most treasured environmental and historic resources.

I appreciate David's efforts to make American families, homes and communities stronger, smarter and safer. I appreciate the Directorate's unyielding commitment to letting our Nation know that Mitigation Works.