

ESWG MEMBERS REPRESENT MITIGATORS ACROSS THE NATION

The External Stakeholder Working Group provides an opportunity for FEMA staff to increase engagement and transparency with non-federal partners in the Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs at the state, local, tribal, or territorial (SLTT) government levels.

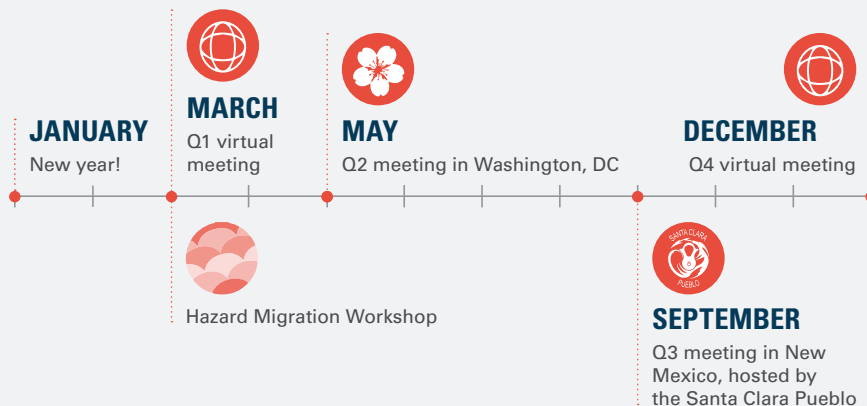


ESWG members visit ancestral homelands of Santa Clara Tribe during Q3 meeting in New Mexico.

THE ESWG HIGHLIGHTS MITIGATION POSSIBILITIES THROUGH HANDS-ON LEARNING

In-person ESWG meetings include a site visit component that allows the state, local, and tribal members to showcase their mitigation project and program. Site visits provide ESWG members with a window into the world of how their counterparts implement mitigation in different environments, expose members to new perspectives and allow them to see the world through the eyes of different mitigation practitioners. These site visits create a platform for experiential learning, and the sharing of challenges, solutions, and best practices, all while sparking new ideas among stakeholders.

2019 TIMELINE



THE ESWG IS A VALUABLE FEMA PARTNER

THE ESWG BUILDS MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS AMONG STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

“Being part of the ESWG has allowed me to challenge myself to be a better SHMO and find solutions for my citizens.”

— STATE ESWG MEMBER

THE ESWG CREATES AN ENVIRONMENT OF COLLABORATION AND EMPOWERMENT THAT ALLOWS MEMBERS VOICES TO BE HEARD.

“[Being a member of the ESWG has] allowed me to see the value of my voice, the value of my experiences and the value I bring to HMA.”

—TRIBAL ESWG MEMBER

THE ESWG GIVES FEMA UNFILTERED ACCESS TO STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES

“For my community, ESWG has been really important because I’ve been able to be the conduit between our clients and FEMA. I’ve also been very impressed by FEMA staffs’ willingness to hear from those of us on the front lines and discuss more efficient, less cumbersome paths to utilizing FEMA resources.”

— LOCAL ESWG MEMBER



ESWG members learned about the Santa Clara Tribe’s naturalistic approaches to watershed restoration and flood mitigation.

WORKSTREAMS

Turning Discussion Into Action

Each year, the ESWG identifies topics of interest for state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) stakeholders in order to engage in deep dive thinking and problem solving through workstreams. In 2019, the ESWG refreshed these workstreams and identified FEMA partners who are best positioned to help enact meaningful change for the benefit of SLTT stakeholders.



Serene White (Yurok Tribe, California) climbing to the peak in Santa Clara.



Paula Gutierrez, ESWG member and host of the 2019 Q3 meeting (left) with Kayed Lakhia, Director of Hazard Mitigation Assistance Division, FEMA HQ (right).

ENGAGEMENT

Providing Stakeholder Perspectives on FEMA Initiatives

- DRRA 1204 and 1205 Additional Activities for Wildfire and Wind
- DRRA 1215 Management Costs
- DRRA 1234 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
- National Flood Insurance Program
- FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

2019 WORKSTREAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS



1. GRANTS PROCESS SUPPORT FOR LOCALS AND TRIBES

Began initial stages of project to analyze and consolidate existing HMA materials.



2. TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Finalized the HMA Tribal Engagement Strategy and began socializing the plan within FEMA.



3. ANNUAL HAZARD MITIGATION STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP PLANNING

- Hosted the Tribal Roundtable Discussion at the 2019 HM Workshop
- Mitigation 101 Course
- Mitigation Project Field Trip to Harrisburg, PA

OUTREACH

Moving Mitigation Forward

ESWG Members helped shape and drive the planning and discussion of the 2019 Hazard Mitigation Workshop, contributing innovative session such as Mitigation 101 course, the Tribal Roundtable, and field trips to mitigation sites in Pennsylvania. Throughout the year, ESWG members have engaged with their communities and peers to get an accurate sense of relevant and current stakeholder issues in order to then convey these messages to FEMA.

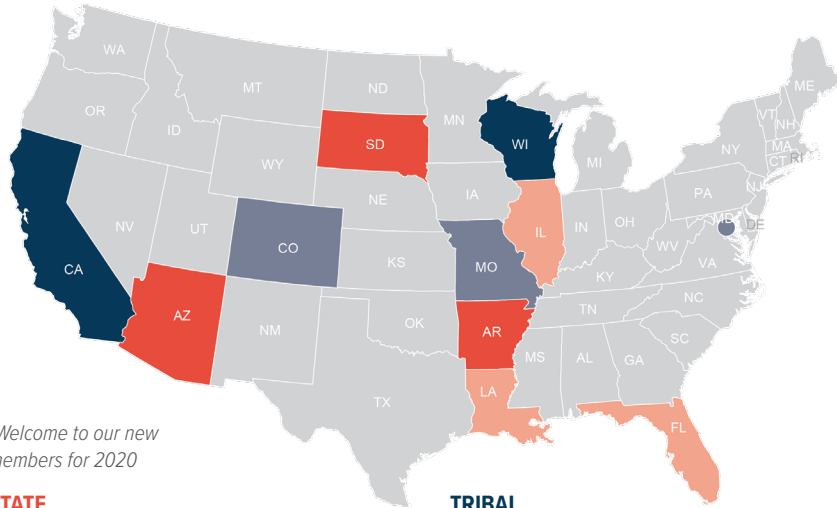


ESWG members learned about the floodwall mitigation project at the DC Water Blue Plains Treatment Facility.

If you are state, local, tribal, territorial or FEMA regional stakeholder and are interested in becoming a member of this group, please visit [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov) to read about the group and **SUBMIT A FORM**.

ESWG IN THE NEW DECADE

ESWG MEMBERS REPRESENT MITIGATORS ACROSS THE NATION



*Welcome to our new members for 2020

STATE

Lucrecia Hernandez* (Arizona)
Jennifer Oakley* (Arkansas)
Jim Poppen (South Dakota)

LOCAL

Richard Fisher* (Chicago, Illinois)
Jennifer Gerbasi (Terrabonne Parish, Louisiana)
Christine Hurley* (Monroe County, Florida)

TRIBAL

Kaylynn Gresham (Oneida Nation, Wisconsin)
Serene White (Yurok Tribe, California)
Tribal Member – Vacant

FEMA

Daniel Jones (Region VIII, Colorado)
Jennie Orenstein (Washington, DC)
Stacy Robarge-Silkner (Region VII, Missouri)

BURSTING THE PRE-CONCEIVED NOTIONS THAT HOLD US BACK

“This only happens in my area.”

“My problems are too small for the Federal government to care about.”

“There’s no room for creative problem solving.”

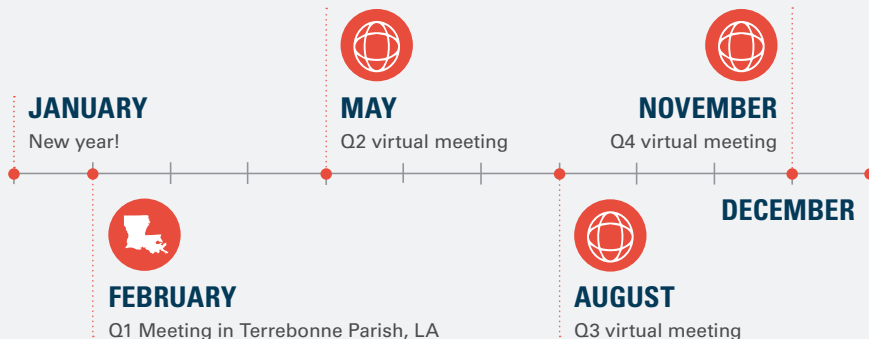
“This is too hard/impossible.”

“This is a west coast issue.”

HMA AND ESWG ENGAGEMENT PLANS FOR 2020

In 2020, the ESWG workstreams plan to continue deepening working relationships with their respective FEMA clients. Each workstream has collaborated with FEMA clients to identify mutually beneficial goals and plan to make progress towards achieving key milestones. HMA plans to engage with the ESWG on various topics such as HMA guidance update needs, 406 mitigation, communications for the new pre-disaster mitigation program—Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, and emerging issues and needs for community mitigation.

2020 TIMELINE



In 2020, the ESWG will continue to champion collaboration of stakeholders at all levels to facilitate innovative and creative problem solving. The ESWG promotes a network of skilled and knowledgeable mitigators who each bring to the table valuable expertise and experiences. The FEMA and ESWG relationship allows FEMA leaders and staff to step outside of their own “bubbles” and better understand stakeholder perspectives.