



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

*Your Comprehensive
Public Works Resource*

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April 25, 2025

Patrick Powers
Designated Federal Officer,
Federal Emergency Management Agency Review Council
Department of Homeland Security

Subject: **Docket Number DHS-2025-0013**

Dear Mr. Powers:

On behalf of the 32,000 members of the American Public Works Association (APWA), please find APWA feedback in response to your request for “Public Input on Experiences With FEMA Disaster Responses” to be considered by the FEMA Review Council (FEMA Review Council) established through Executive Order 14180, “Council to Assess the Federal Emergency Management Agency”.

As you know, the federal government emphasized the crucial role of public works through the enactment of Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-8 in 2003 (which has since been superseded by Presidential Policy Directive-8 in 2011), recognizing public works professionals as first responders. Public works, with varying degrees of oversight, is responsible for many of the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) [16 Critical Infrastructure Sectors](#). This is particularly relevant pertaining to emergency management and disaster mitigation, response, and recovery.

APWA members work closely with FEMA on a multitude of issues related to emergency management and disaster response which includes hardening of infrastructure in preparation for disasters, maintaining operations during disasters, and response efforts during the recovery phase and restoration of essential services. As first responders, public works professionals are recognized as the “silent arm of public safety” and are often called upon before, during, and following disasters be they natural or otherwise. This includes APWA members providing assessments, financial recommendations, and guidance to FEMA as to how to best respond to emergencies in the areas of remediation.

While the interactions between our members and FEMA do vary across the country, as an organization, APWA’s policy priorities emphasize the importance of disaster preparedness and mitigation. To ensure we support our priorities, APWA has worked to establish relationships with FEMA which include working with FEMA regional offices, membership on working groups connected with FEMA such as the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) and the National Homeland Security Consortium (NHSC), seminars, conferences, and retreats. We have also strongly advocated on the importance of streamlining when it comes to getting projects off the ground. For your

PRESIDENT
Dominick A. Longobardi

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Scott D. Grayson, CAE



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reference, we have attached a copy of APWA's Emergency Management 119th Session of Congress policy priority document which further outlines our positions.

APWA stands ready as a resource for the FEMA Review Council in their efforts to streamline and improve our nation's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impact of disasters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dominick A. Longobardi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "D" and "L".

Dominick A. Longobardi
APWA President

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Scott D. Grayson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "S" and "G".

Scott D. Grayson, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

PRESIDENT
Dominick A. Longobardi

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Scott D. Grayson, CAE