**NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

**POSITION PAPER**

DATE: September 12, 2014

SUBJECT: Recommendations for the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program

DISCUSSION: In July 2014, the U.S. Geological Survey released the 2014 National Seismic Hazard Maps and supporting report. In some areas of the Nation, the maps show that earthquake hazards have risen significantly; however, public perception and preparedness levels for earthquakes are very low. At the same time, State Emergency Management earthquake preparedness and risk reduction capabilities are dwindling. The Mitigation Committee would ask that NEMA review and discuss the health and welfare of FEMA’s “National Earthquake Program,” more formally known as the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP), from a State Emergency Management perspective and make recommendations for improvement.

In recent years, NEHRP has become more focused on earthquake science and research functions with little emphasis on implementation, which is accomplished at the Local and State Government levels. Compounding this, emergency management is funded at a significantly lower level among the NEHRP agencies, receiving less than seven percent of the funds allocated for this threat. These were noted in Illinois Emergency Management Director Mr. Jonathon Monken’s July 29, 2014 testimony to the United States House of Representatives during a NEHRP re-authorization hearing.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The emergency management community, represented by FEMA, must receive equal emphasis and funding comparative to other NEHRP agencies.
2. Direct NEHRP funding assistance to the States must resume and must allow States the flexibility to use it to meet State and local needs within mitigation, preparedness, and response and recovery planning.
3. The FEMA NEHRP program must integrate and execute all aspects of emergency management under an independent NEHRP Senior Executive Service (SES) office, similar

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NEMA Secretary

NEMA 2014 Annual Forum, October 9-12, Lowes Hotel Atlanta, Atlanta, GA