

## **ASDSO Priorities for a National Levee Safety Program**

The Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) Board of Directors supports all recommendations of the National Committee on Levee Safety (NCLS) for the development of a National Levee Safety Program. The following presents a series of questions asked of NCLS Review Team members and ASDSO's responses. We provide this to ASDSO members and supporters for use when attending NCLS Levee Stakeholder Meetings or when engaged in any discussions involving levee safety.

### ***What recommendations do you think are the most crucial for the creation of a National Levee Safety Program? Why?***

ASDSO's priority is to protect public safety by repairing or removing existing deficient levees as soon as possible. Toward that end, the following recommendations are the most crucial.

- Conduct an inventory and evaluation of the nation's levees
- Develop national levee safety guidelines including tolerable risk guidelines and a hazard potential classification system
- Establish a levee rehabilitation and assistance funding program
- Delegate and give assistance for the National Levee Safety Program to States and Tribes
- Establish the National Levee Safety Commission to administer the National Levee Safety Program

### ***What recommendations do you think are the most difficult to support? Why?***

The ASDSO Board of Directors has voted to support all of the NCLS recommendations. Our expertise lies with the structural aspects of levee safety and so it is easy for us to support the recommendations to inventory and assess structures, develop guidelines, create or improve state-run regulatory programs, and rehab/remove structures, etc. While we support the non-structural recommendations and will communicate that support to our stakeholders, we do not want to see controversy over these recommendations stall progress on the repair, rehabilitation, or removal of deficient levees.

### ***Please list any additional considerations or details regarding the recommendations for a National Levee Safety Program (particular recommendations or in general).***

ASDSO supports the creation of an independent commission to house both the National Levee Safety Program and the National Dam Safety Program. As stated in the NCLS report, "In order to maximize efficiencies at all levels of government, build upon existing state expertise and provide consistent messages related to multi-hazard risk to the public, all opportunities to integrate the two should be explored." ASDSO will work with our partners and stakeholders toward this goal.

### ***Please list any additional comments on strategies for implementing a National Levee Safety Program.***

Do not allow the discussion/debate on the broader flood-risk management goals to derail progress toward structural repairs to deficient levees. ASDSO will work with the NCLS to establish and implement the more easily obtainable goals of fixing levees.