



September 10, 2019

## Bulletins

- New Sediment Management Workgroup on [LinkedIn](#)
- Its Hurricane Season - Keep Up with the Tropics [Here](#)
- Donate to [Hurricane Dorian Relief](#)
- Looking for Assistance in [Implementing Coastal Resilience?](#)
- Next [WaterLog Blog](#) on the NFIP out September 12th, 2019

## Corps Funding Bill Set for Action

Congress is finally back in session after a long summer break. What's next? The Energy & Water Appropriations Bill will be acted on by the Senate Appropriations Committee this Thursday at 10:30. With the House having already passed its version of that bill, the two versions need to be conferenced. If the final version gets approved by Congress and signed into law by September 30th, it will be two years in a row that Congress has gotten this done before the October 1st beginning of the new fiscal year.

## NOAA, that is Embarrassing!

As Dorian headed toward the southeast coast, Trump became a meteorologist and predicted it would impact Alabama. NOAA and the National Weather Service never predicted that. A cabinet member told a NOAA official not to contradict Trump's forecasts. "This is the first time I've felt pressure from above to not say what truly is the forecast," an anonymous NOAA meteorologist said. "It's hard for me to wrap my head around. One of the things we train on is to dispel inaccurate rumors and ultimately that is what was occurring." A true leader learns from his or her mistakes, and then *corrects* them. This "Bama-gate" is no surprise though, coming from an Administration that is branded on 'Fake News' and disinformation. For both science and the Administration, ignoring statistics-based, peer-reviewed science is a tremendous violation of scientific integrity. This will make headlines.

**Trump's Decision to Transfer FEMA Funding to Immigrant Detention Centers →**

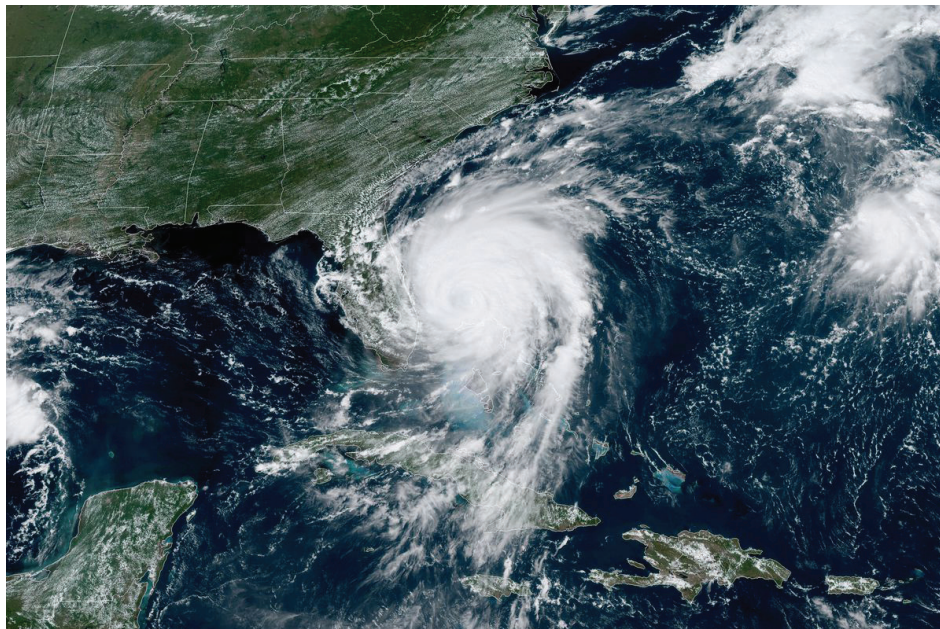
## Trump's Decision to Transfer FEMA Funding to Immigrant Detention Centers

\$10 million is being shifted from FEMA's Disaster Relief fund to go towards Trump's detention centers for asylum-seekers. This came as Dorian was spinning up to flatten the Bahamas on its way to the US. "It's déjà vu all over again," said Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley, pointing out that this administration is endangering America by moving funds away from emergency management for its own agenda.

Remember what happened in Puerto Rico after Maria? Aid was delayed for months, and the death toll kept rising. But these delays are the new norm. In fact, FEMA just announced federal grants to aid with damages that occurred 3 years ago during Hurricane Matthew! While FEMA has a vetted process of providing funds for documented cases after emergencies, mitigation and adaptation measures need to be taken to minimize exposure to risks from tropical cyclones and ultimately reduce FEMA payouts. Not only are storms getting stronger, they're stalling more than ever. Harvey did and so did Dorian.

## Storms are Costing Us More than Ever

A [new study](#) published in the Nature Research Journal suggests that hurricanes are now more likely to stall over North America. While the trend isn't correlated with anthropogenic effects, let's have a reality check - In the past 10 years, the US has encountered some seriously severe weather patterns. Not only was this summer the hottest summer on record, ever, but the storms hitting our coasts are the type we don't expect for 100-500 years or roughly 0.2-1% chance of occurring. The frequency and intensity is finally turning heads, even those in the reinsurance industry are projecting [reinsurance price hikes](#) in 2020 due to catastrophes, as much as 5%. Moody's predicts that poorly performing markets could see price rises in the mid-teens.



*Hurricane Dorian Stalling Over the Bahamas; Photo: The Verge*

**Corporate Responsibility in Action** —→

## Corporate Responsibility in Action

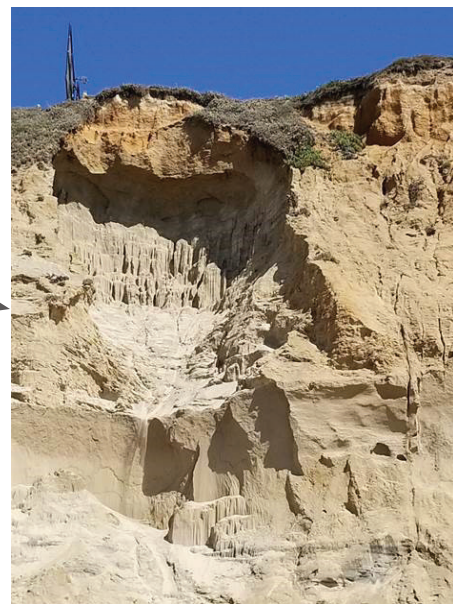
Van's shoes and Timberland, among others owned by VF Corp. are temporarily banning leather imports from Brazil "until there are credible assurances that the leather does not contribute to environmental harm in the Amazon." The message comes after a series of fires in the Amazon Rainforest sparked global interest in preservation and conservation. The President of Brazil has done very little to resolve the issue, claiming the fires were started to undermine him as President.

## Micro Plastics, Macro Concerns

Scientists at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego have found micro plastics buried in marine sediments dating back to World War II. Since then, the amount of microplastics found in samples has doubled roughly every 15 years. These microplastics are ending up not only in the bellies of fish and other marine life, but in the flesh that we eat. For decades, we purposely put plastic everywhere. Now that it *is* everywhere, we don't want it anymore, and scientists are racing to figure out the potential health impacts.

## California's Delegation Making Waves Over Beach Projects

It seems that California's iconic beaches are finally getting the attention they deserve. There are Corps beach nourishment projects all over the East Coast, but only one in California. After recent fatalities from bluff collapses, severe beach erosion, and delays to the rail corridor passing through San Clemente down to La Jolla, Congressman Levin has taken matters into his own hands with support from Senators Feinstein and Harris. "It is long past time for the Administration to do its part to help stabilize our coastal bluffs and ensure that no further lives are needlessly lost," Congressman Levin said in a recent statement. "This is not about tourism or recreation, this is about basic public safety....Ultimately, we also need robust action to address the climate crisis if we want to stem coastal erosion and protect infrastructure. We can't afford to wait any longer."



*Bluff Collapse in San Diego County, CA*

National Flood Insurance Program →

## NFIP Expires September 30th, 2019

In a little over 2 weeks, the NFIP will expire. During peak hurricane season and appropriations on a fast track, we can only imagine more short-term extensions. On Thursday, look for a special legislative update on the NFIP and a WaterLog resource from our Chief Economist that will demystify 10 common misconceptions about the NFIP.

## New Federal Bills

[Click Here](#) for a list of all coastal and water related bills in the 116th Congress.

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How are we doing? Please let us know your comments by emailing Dan at [dan@waterlog.net](mailto:dan@waterlog.net).

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