



TFMA 2008 Annual Conference
League City, Texas
April 27 – May 1, 2008

PDH Certificate



Ethics & Floodplain Management

May 1, 2008

Presented to:

Certificate of Participation
1 Professional Development Hour (PDH) - Ethics

Instructor: John A. Espinoza, PE, CFM
Half Associates, Inc.

Training Description: The presentation discussed many of the day-to-day “ethical” technical and administrative decisions that are encountered in floodplain management including hydrologic and hydraulic modeling for drainage and floodplain studies, FEMA Letters of Map Change and flood insurance studies. It illustrated how technical decisions can become ethical issues due to client pressure, project deadlines, supervisor or peer pressures, company or agency policy, unclear standards or regulations, availability or non-availability of accurate H&H data, National Flood Insurance Program compliance, and financial impacts. Some examples of specific technical-ethical issues, such as selection of appropriate H&H models, hydrologic and hydraulic parameters: runoff coefficients, curve numbers, routing coefficients, times of concentration, and Manning’s roughness coefficients. Other issues involve upstream and downstream flooding impacts, effective flow limits, proper bridge and culvert modeling, calibration to historical events, comparisons to previous studies, floodway locations, and floodplain delineation. This presentation included a brief discussion of the difference between unethical behavior and poor technical judgment.