

**Florida Floodplain Managers Association
2019 Annual Conferences
Abstracts**

Title: Behind the DFIRM Curtain

Length: 30 minutes

Subject: General Floodplain Management

Target Audience: Community officials; general public

Presenter Name: Ki Pak, PE, CFM
Project Manager
Gemini Engineering & Sciences, Inc.

Biography: Mr. Pak is a Senior Project Manager and Principal Engineer with Gemini Engineering & Sciences. He has program-level as well as hands-on experience with riverine, lacustrine, coastal, and watershed-sized projects related to stormwater runoff, flooding, flood control, and flood reduction. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the California Institute of Technology, and his Master of Engineering degree from Cornell University.

Co-Presenter: None

Biography:

Abstract: The general public has become increasingly aware of flood insurance and the leading role played by FEMA on the national theater regarding the National Flood Insurance Program, particularly over the last 20 years due to any number of the high-profile flooding events that have captured our nation’s spotlight. Over this same time, regardless of whether the billboard reads “Map Modernization (MapMod)” or “Risk MAP,” flood mapping, DFIRMs, and the overall Flood Insurance Study (FIS) undertaking remain the headliner, but with this limelight comes criticism on quality. Whether it is apparent to the public or not, the public plays a role on the quality of the mapping through the appeal period process after the issuance of preliminary maps. What the public, participating communities, and other audience members may not be aware of are the extensive quality reviews that are performed behind the scenes, whether it is internal quality assurance, independent quality control reviews, FEMA Regional quality reviews, Headquarters oversight through the Key Decision Point framework, the internal community reviews, or even the MT-1/MT-2 instruments after the preliminary maps become effective. The considerable extent of quality reviews behind the DFIRM curtain remains to be shared.