



FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: January 21, 2010

DATE: January 8, 2010
TO: Flood Project Coordinating Committee Members
FROM: Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Management Project, 850-7420
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SUBJECT: Accept Truckee River Flood Management Project Status Report for December 2009

SUMMARY

A status report on the activities related to the Truckee River Flood Management Project for the month of December 2009 is provided herein.

PREVIOUS ACTION

The most recent status report for November 2009 was presented to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee at their December 11, 2009 meeting.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Local Sponsors/Collaborative Efforts

Flood Awareness – Flood Project staff met with representatives of Washoe County, Sparks and Reno to define the annual Flood Awareness campaign. The 2009/2010 television campaign started December 31, 2009 and continues through February 11, 2010. In addition to the television advertising, the campaign includes radio announcements, a Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) bill insert for January, banner ads in the Reno News and Review, updated information including sandbag locations, and a video on “How to Properly Sandbag”, and contact information www.floodawareness.com. Additionally, “Make a Kit, Make a Plan, Be Prepared” brochures are being developed for distribution through Reno, Washoe County and Sparks’ outlets starting in January.

Flood Warning System – At their December 11th meeting, the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) approved the transfer of the management, and the costs of personnel, operation and maintenance responsibilities for the flood warning system to the Flood Project from the Department of Water Resources to the Flood Project, and authorized the Director of the Flood Project to enter into negotiations with the Washoe County Department of Water Resources to achieve the transfer.

The Flood Warning System is composed of gages and associated equipment intended to provide critical storm and weather information to various agencies within Northern Nevada for the purposes of supporting emergency preparations in advance of devastating floods. It includes 54 local and US Geologic Survey (USGS) sponsored stream and precipitation gages, transmission equipment, computer data collection and distribution system, and equipment and software to transform the data into useable information for regional emergency flood response. In addition to the data from the 54 gages, staff relies on data from an additional 121 gages paid for and managed by other organizations. In total, there are 175 gages in the regional hydrologic data network.

TRAction Projects

Lower Mustang Ranch - The New York Times featured an article about the Lower Mustang Ranch Restoration Project in the December 15th Environmental section of the newspaper. The link is as follows: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/15/science/earth/15ranch.html?_r=1&hp

Reno City Council - At the December 16th meeting, the Reno City Council affirmed recreation as a priority for the Flood Project and supported giving the proposed flood management authority board the authority to issue bonds for the project. The support and further action are in preparation for the future Joint Powers Authority authorized at the last legislative session.

Outreach

Flood Project Tour – Danielle Henderson, Natural Resource Manager, led a tour of the Lockwood and Lower Mustang Ranch Restoration sites along with the McCarran overlook area for a group of UNR students in the Academy for the Environment.

Social Media Outreach - The Flood Project established both a Facebook page and Twitter account with future plans to expand the social media outreach in 2010. Everyone is invited to “**become a fan**” of the Truckee River Flood Project. The FPCC was provided an update on the strategic outreach messaging and social media plan at their December 11th meeting.

KOH Radio Interview – Susie Kapahee, Public Information Officer was featured on KOH radio in response to a “call to action” for flood awareness. The recorded message will play at various times depending on time available.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) accept this status report on the Truckee River Flood Management Program.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the FPCC wish to implement the staff recommendation, a simple motion to approve the recommendation would suffice.