



## FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE: August 14, 2009**

**DATE:** August 4, 2009  
**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 June and July 2009

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### **SUMMARY**

A status report on the activities related to the Truckee River Flood Management Project for the months of June and July 2009 is provided herein.

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

The most recent status report for May 2009 was presented to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee at their June 12, 2009 meeting.

### **MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

#### **Legislative Issues**

**Update to Reno City Council on JPA** – Director Naomi Duerr presented the Reno City Council with an update on the possible future governance of the Flood Project (Senate Bill 175) at the July 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The Reno City Council was presented a schedule for creating a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to oversee the Flood Project. The governance model allows the set-up of a Flood Management Authority and enables the collection of fees for floodplain management for the more than 50 projects included in the Flood Project's Living River Plan. A Flood Management Authority would also provide the necessary liability protection so that if a flood disaster occurs we can respond appropriately and quickly. The next steps include presentations to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee, City of Sparks, and Washoe County Commission.

**Senate Bill 175 (SB 175)** - Governor Gibbons signed SB 175 on Monday, June 8, 2009. SB 175 amends existing law to make sure we can build and operate the Truckee River Flood Management Project in the way our community has envisioned it. The full text of SB 175 can be accessed at: [http://leg.state.nv.us/75th2009/Bills/SB/SB175\\_EN.pdf](http://leg.state.nv.us/75th2009/Bills/SB/SB175_EN.pdf). With the signing of SB 175, our community can take the next important steps in bringing the flood project vision to life, and improving the safety of our community and our quality of life.

The Reno Gazette Journal recognized the importance of this bill in their Thursday, June 11 Editorial. <http://rgj.com/article/20090611/OPED01/906110316/1098/OPED/Editorial--Bill-gets-us-closer-to-protecting-the-valley-against-another-flood>

**AB 54** – AB 54 was signed by the Governor May 29, 2009. This bill was jointly sponsored by the Truckee River Flood Project and Washoe County Department of Water Resources. The bill authorizes the County to establish financing programs to assist individual homeowners and businesses with flood proofing and elevation of homes, and with water and wastewater hookups.

### **Fiscal Issues**

**Federal Funding** – Congress is considering the federal budget for FY 09-10 which starts in October 2009. At this point, the Senate has included \$10 million in appropriations to the Corps for the Truckee River Flood Project Flood project - \$5 million to complete the plan and \$5 million to start design of project elements. The final budget for the project is expected to be worked out this fall.

**Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) Coordination Meeting** – Danielle Henderson, Natural Resource Manager attended the SNPLMA Round 11 - coordinating meeting to review the nominations for potential lands to be acquired by the SNPLMA grant funds. The final nominations are due the first part of September with the group reconvening at the end of September to review the application packets.

**Brownfields** – Flood Project staff met with Kleinfelder Engineering to continue discussing grant funding opportunities for “brownfields” applications. A “brownfield” is a piece of industrial or commercial property that is abandoned or underused and likely to be contaminated. Funding is provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) to check for contamination problems on properties that could become possible redevelopment sites. Staff is considering applying for grant funding from NDEP to conduct Phase I and Phase II site assessments on properties which may become part of the Flood Project. Brownfields grants were used to analyze the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony’s property prior to construction of the Flood Project’s levee/floodwall and the planned Walmart.

### **TRAction Projects**

**Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC)** - The RSIC floodwall and levee structural work is completed. Backfill and planting for landscaping and the walking trail is underway and will continue throughout summer 2009. This project continues to be on time and within budget.

A tour of the RSIC project took place June 30<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 15 participants along with print and television media enjoyed seeing the first flood reduction project as it nears the final stages of construction and planting of landscape materials.

**Rainbow Bend** – Work is accelerating on a possible Rainbow Bend Traction project. The Canyon GID is advertising for engineers to complete a design for the project. The Storey County TRAction Project request is expected to be considered at the August FPCC meeting.

**Hidden Valley TRAction Project** - Flood Project staff, working with Manhard Consulting, began outreach efforts to flood-prone homes in the Hidden Valley June 12th. The door-to-door outreach is designed to support the collection of survey data that is needed for a variety of grant applications.

The first of these is a request to FEMA for funding for home elevation, floodproofing and property acquisition projects. The passage of AB 54 allows the flood project to expend funds for these “non-structural” approaches to flood protection.

**TRAction Project Prioritization Meeting** – Flood Project staff met with the Flood Project’s Project Management Team (PMT) to discuss the TRAction Projects and formulate a priority list. The group determined the priority of the projects by the criteria the Technical Advisory Group (TAC) had formulated. The priority list recommendations will be presented to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) for approval this fall.

### **Local Sponsors/Collaborative Efforts**

**Recreation Plan** – Danielle Henderson, Flood Project Natural Resource Manager presented the Truckee River Flood Project Recreation Plan concepts to the City of Reno Recreation and Parks Commission at a meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup>. The Commission was enthused about the overall plan.

The City Parks Commission meeting was followed Wednesday, July 8 by a meeting with the key recreation plan stakeholders. The team reviewed the Corps’ current iteration of the recreation plan and were very supportive of the results to date.

Staff plans to present the draft recreation plan to the FPCC at their September meeting for consideration and possible inclusion in the adopted Living River Plan. Ms. Henderson expects to meet with a variety of additional parks advocacy groups prior to the September FPCC meeting.

**Real Estate Project Delivery Team** – A meeting of the Real Estate Team was held the week of June 1<sup>st</sup>. Attendees included Corps real estate acquisition, appraisal, legal and management staff, and their local counterparts. Important policy, timeline, and process issues were discussed. Outcomes include improved clarity on Corps and local roles and responsibilities for real estate.

**Working Group** - The May Working Group was rescheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup> and included an update on legislative bills AB 54 and SB 175. Other topics presented and discussed were the comprehensive Flood Project Property Management plan currently being developed and an update on the Recreation Plan development. A tour of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony followed the meeting. Another tour of the site was scheduled for June 30<sup>th</sup> as a number of members were unable to attend the tour that day.

The July Working Group meeting included an update on the Joint Powers Authority (JPA), an update on the potential Rainbow Bend TRAction Project including an extension of the Request for Proposal (RFP) to August 27<sup>th</sup>. Jay Aldean reported that the Reno Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) TRAction project was closing out “on time and within budget.” A date for the Mustang Ranch Groundbreaking is being considered for September 2009 with construction starting in August. Danielle Henderson presented an update on the Recreation Plan and Jay Aldean reported that the Corps schedule is undergoing a series of internal and external reviews that will have an effect on the schedule.

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** - The Flood Project Technical Advisory Committee met on June 1<sup>st</sup> and again on July 31 and discussed a number of topics. In June, the TAC policies and procedures were discussed with the members approving a revised version. The members received an update on the legislative bills AB 54 and SB175 with discussion regarding the potential impacts of each bill.

An update on the Flood Project Recreation Plan and a comprehensive report on the Flood Project Property Management Plan now under development were also discussed. The TAC voted to support the staff recommendation to demolish three of the six buildings on Edison Way as soon as practical.

**Truckee River Bike Path Evaluation** - Flood Project staff took a bike tour of the Truckee River bicycle path from Downtown Reno to Greg Street. The purpose of the tour was to assess and evaluate the existing bike path as well as determine how to connect future parts of the bike path to create one contiguous path. The main focus was the area on the south side of the river near the newly constructed Reno-Sparks Indian Colony floodwall and levee.

**Property Management** – Weed abatement efforts are underway at the “Bristlecone” property located at 1725 S. McCarran Blvd. The noxious “tall whitetop” weed elimination is being coordinated and paid for by Washoe County Regional Parks & Open Space and the Nevada Land Conservancy; Bristlecone is one of many projects in the Truckee Meadows that are recipients of the grant-funded work.

**Non-Point Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO)** – Danielle Henderson, Flood Project Natural Resource Manager will be working with NEMO on photography of Flood Project restoration areas that includes special 360° views for use in a variety of water quality-related workshops and handouts. The educational aspects of NEMO also include hands-on “field” experiences and fact sheets.

**Flood Project Design Work** – Work continues with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Kleinfelder, to provide soil sampling services. Along with the work on the soils sampling, the Flood Project and Kleinfelder are also working the Washoe County’s Department of Water Resources to install piezometers that measure and assist with ground water monitoring. When the soil sampling project is complete, the meters will be available for use by the Water Resources Department.

**Ecosystem Restoration Update** – Flood Project staff attended the Ecosystem Restoration ad-hoc meeting which is comprised of agencies who are directly involved with and responsible for planning and implementing Truckee River ecosystem restoration projects. The purpose of this group is to discuss ongoing and upcoming ecosystem restoration projects along the Truckee River in order to better coordinate our efforts, and streamline project implementation. The group also brainstorms ways to solve project implementation issues, discussion of restoration grants that require match funds, securing permits, acquiring right-of-ways, obtaining water for restored vegetation, and performing project monitoring and maintenance. The ad-hoc group meets the first Monday of every month.

### **Improve Public Safety, Security and Health**

**Nevada Department of Transportation Emergency Response Exercise** - Eric Scheetz, P.E. attended the State of Nevada’s Emergency Response Exercise “Operation Eagle Eye” in Carson City. The exercise was designed to establish a learning environment for participants to utilize emergency response plans, policies, and procedures as they pertain to a natural catastrophic flood. The Flood Project provided valuable information regarding existing flood data from the 1997 Flood pertaining to flood depths, flood pools, as well as area flood inundation maps. A follow-up meeting is planned to discuss the exercise results.

**Localized Flooding** – Heavy rains the week of June 8<sup>th</sup> created excessive runoff which had no place to go resulting in flooded streets and properties. Some runoff got trapped in the area of the Flood Project’s properties on Edison Way between the temporary “jersey barriers” installed to protect against river flooding and the buildings. While no properties were damaged, this experience demonstrated in a very visual way what we mean when we talk about “interior drainage” or water getting trapped on the supposed “dry” side of a levee. Preventing this situation is an integral part of the flood project planning.



### **Outreach**

A **Town Hall Meeting** is scheduled for Monday, August 10, 2009 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the Washoe County Commission Chambers, 1001 E. Ninth Street, Building A, First Floor.

Flood Project Coordinating Committee Board members and staff will update the community on:

- Recent legislation regarding formation of a standalone flood management agency utilizing a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) process,
- Flood Project elements,
- general construction schedule,
- potential job opportunities associated with the flood management project (both near-term and long-term),
- new website section on flood contracting opportunities and
- the plan to implement a new rate structure to help pay for the flood management project.

Members of the construction community (builders, planners, project managers, construction estimators, construction company reps, building trades, etc.), engineering and environmental consultants, government officials, and the general public may find this meeting especially relevant.

### **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.