



Flood Project E-Update

August 28, 2008

Corps Activities

Project Schedule - The project schedule continues to be a major topic of discussion with the Corps as all parties review the latest schedule for “reasonableness.” The Corps has just provided the latest schedule update to the local sponsors for our review. We will review to determine if additional resources could be added which would further reduce the overall schedule end date. The first progress report with the Commander is scheduled for September 5th. Weekly “ad hoc” meetings may change from Thursday to Tuesday, with a weekly Commander update on Fridays. These project schedule changes do not affect the TRAction project timelines and progress.

Section 113 Credit - The Corps reported that the Section 113 (ecosystem restoration) cost-share credit approval for the 102 Ranch Restoration Project and Lockwood Restoration Projects is still in the review process as of the end of August. Section 113 gets its name from the section of law Senator Reid obtained to support the flood project. Nowhere else in the country is credit allowed for early ecosystem restoration. Ecosystem restoration involves construction of river channel meanders, riffles and point bars; creation of wetlands; restoration of abandoned gravel pits; and revegetation of riparian and upland areas with native plant species.

Project Manager Change - Chan Modini, the current Corps Project Manager, has been promoted to a new position with the Corps' prestigious "Hydraulic Engineering Center" in Davis CA. Chan will continue working on our project until October 9th when he leaves for HEC. The Corps will be replacing Chan with another experienced senior project manager as soon as possible. With this change, the Corps has agreed to assign an additional project manager to work with the Sr. Project Manager to help better manage the schedule and work products on their end.

TRAction Projects

Southeast Connector Road - Paul Urban attended a community meeting August 28th at Damonte Ranch High School. Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) staff updates are expected to go to the RTC Board September 19th.

Storey County - Paul Urban and Eric Scheetz continued discussions on potential TRAction projects for Storey County. These meetings will continue on a regularly scheduled basis until the concept for the TRAction Project is defined.

Local Sponsors/Collaborative Efforts

Recreation Plan – On August 18th and 19th, Danielle Henderson, Natural Resource Manager, facilitated a “Local Sponsor and Corps Recreation Planning Session” to discuss the conceptual recreation plan. The two-day meeting included a tour of the Flood Project, Corps policies and cost-share considerations for recreation, clarification of roles and responsibilities for the Corps and local sponsor, and work task assignments to both groups. The current plan is to hand off continued development of the recreation plan to Corps staff in Texas, with assistance to be provided by the

local sponsors and Stantec Inc. (the local consultants). The final plan is scheduled for completion in December 2008.

Truckee River Funding Group - Danielle Henderson attended the Truckee River Funding Group meeting August 20th to determine any possibility of future funding for the Flood Project. This group was formed as a result of the 2002 voter approved Q-1 or AB9 to issue bonds to preserve and protect the state's natural resources. Specifically, the money must be used to acquire and develop land and water rights; provide recreational facilities; provide parking for access to and along the river; or restore the Truckee River. Discussion included an overview of the projects and feasibility of the remaining projects on the list including \$1.5 million now available for re-allocation to new projects along the Truckee River.

Lockwood and 102 Ranch Restoration Project - At their August 8th meeting, the FPCC directed staff to move forward with construction of the 102 Ranch project in advance of receiving Corps Section 113 approvals for the project. The Nature Conservancy reported that an August 18 start date was critical in order to complete the first phase of the projects by year-end. The primary purpose of these projects is to restore the physical and biological functions of the riverine ecosystem, thereby improving water quality and enhancing habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial native species. The restored river channel and floodplain will provide a variety of benefits in terms of flood management, water quality, habitat for special-status species, biological productivity and diversity, noxious weed abatement, restoration of native plants, and recreation opportunities. A groundbreaking is scheduled September 18th at the 102 Ranch location.

Regional Hydrologic Model - Review of the RFQ responses for the regional hydrologic model was completed in August with three firms selected to return and interview with staff from Reno, Sparks, Washoe County, and the Flood Project. A final selection is expected in mid-September. The model is a tool to be set up with a resolution sufficient to determine projected impacts due to land use changes as small as 5 to 10 acres. This RFQ will start the process of identifying firms who have the ability to utilize the best and latest hydrologic technical advances appropriate for the Truckee River Watershed. Distribution of the RFQ was approved at the May 13th Board of County Commissioners BCC meeting.

Working Group – At the August 27th Working Group meeting, Garth Oskol from the RTC provided an update on the possible alignments for the Southeast Connector. Discussion focused on mitigation, causeways, culverts, and Steamboat Creek. Flood Project staff reported that the Flood Storage Mitigation Ordinance/Resolution was in the final stages of drafting with legal counsel, Greg Salter working on the language to combine the Working Group changes and the language from the City of Reno. This is expected to be agendized for the September FPCC Board meeting.

Funding

Flood Funding Study - FCS and CH2MHill are scheduled to update the Finance Subcommittee at the September 9th meeting. The Flood Funding Oversight Committee has been meeting with the Benefits Engineers and the next steps include a review of possible legal challenges associated with potential funding scenarios, more ways to distribute costs within the different jurisdictions, and operations and maintenance costs. The Truckee River Flood Funding Project Funding Study began on January 14, 2008. Outreach has been completed to NABS, CABS and the SCAC involving some 25 presentations. The plan is to provide follow-up briefings to the advisory groups once the consultants have concluded their work.

Land Acquisition/Land Management

Excel Building - At the August 8th FPCC meeting, the Board approved a short-term occupancy by the Friends of the Library in the Excel building that would cover their annual booksale in October 2008. Additional discussions included the need for policy guidelines for leasing flood properties. This item will be discussed at the September 12th FPCC Board retreat. Staff has been working with various safety and fire inspectors to ensure the building meets all current safety codes.

Outreach

Outreach - Naomi Duerr presented an overview of the Flood Project' Flood Funding Study at the Reno City Council meeting August 20th.

Celebrate the Living River - The annual event scheduled for Friday, August 15th was postponed to Thursday, September 18th. It will combine the annual partner awards with the first Flood Project groundbreaking at the 102 Ranch TRAction project. This event will highlight that the progress that has been made on the Flood Project in the last three years, and the contributions of the partners to that success.

Media - Danielle Henderson and Susie Kapahee recorded a KKOH interview with Monica Jaye August 27th that will "air" August 30th on KKOH (AM station) and on Citadel Communications' three other FM stations on Sunday, August 31st. The focus of the interview was the Flood Project in general, with an emphasis on current restoration projects and community involvement.

Staff/Personnel Update

Deputy Director - Recruitment efforts are almost concluded for a Deputy Director for the Flood Project.

Engineering Intern - Recruitment efforts are currently underway for an Engineering Intern for the Flood Project.