



FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: February 08, 2008

DATE: February 1, 2008

TO: Flood Project Coordinating Committee Members

FROM: Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Management Project, 850-7420
nduerr@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: Truckee River Flood Management Project Status Report for January 2008

SUMMARY

A status report on the activities related to the Truckee River Flood Management Project for the month of January 2008 is provided herein.

PREVIOUS ACTION

The most recent status report was presented to the FPCC at their January 11, 2008 meeting.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Improve Public Safety, Security and Health

Flood Danger - Flood Project staff participated in the January 3rd & 4th Emergency Operations briefings on predicted weather impacts and concerns about flooding in the Truckee Meadows. Paul Urban worked with TMWA and NOAA on potential content of flood warning messages. This included visual evidence of predicted problem areas along tributaries. Other staff efforts included updates to www.floodawareness.com, in-person notification to potentially affected Flood Project tenants, and verification and distribution of sandbag location information.

Fernley Levee Break – A 40-50 foot portion of the canal bank of the Truckee- Carson Irrigation Canal broke on Saturday, January 5th spilling water which ultimately covered several hundred homes to depths up to approximately 6 feet. Flood Project staff have been monitoring the situation closely and working with the local floodplain managers to ensure that local Truckee Meadows levee and floodwall inspections are up to date. The Truckee River levees differ significantly from the TCID canal bank in that the Truckee River is natural water body and its levees are dry most of the time (except during floods), allowing inspections and maintenance to occur more easily. The

Truckee River levees are also significantly younger than the TCID canal, having been built over the last 40-60 years in comparison to 100 years ago for the Truckee Canal.

The new Truckee River Flood Project is being designed to contain floods up to the 1997-levels (not greater) and will be built to the latest Corps standards enacted after Hurricane Katrina.

Emergency Preparedness - Doug DuBois has been designated as the new Emergency Preparedness representative for the Flood Project. He will be working regularly with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff on training and needs analysis.

Martis Creek Dam - Paul Urban toured the Martis Creek Dam January 23rd along with representatives from the Sacramento branch of the ACOE, weather service and emergency operations center. The Martis Creek Dam is rated as one of the highest hazard dams in the U.S. by the Corps due to its leakage problems and the location downstream of a major metropolitan area. The tour was for the purpose of completing a dam safety investigation. Flood Project staff was invited to attend the inspection to increase awareness of potential impacts of proposed changes to the dam on the Flood Project. Although a decision is still years away, ACOE officials says potential solutions range from repairing the dam to removing it completely. Until a solution is reached, the Corps will keep the reservoir at a minimum water levels to minimize any potential issues.

Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Coordination

Project Schedule – Robert Larkin, FPCC Chair, Naomi Duerr, Flood Project Director and Paul Urban, Flood Project Manager, met with Colonel Chapman January 3rd regarding delays on the Flood Project timeline. The ACOE is expected to return their comments based on these discussions to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) January 11th. This same meeting subject was discussed by Flood Project staff at the regular ACOE weekly meeting.

The project timeline was also discussed at a conference call following the January 11th FPCC meeting. During that call, the Corps committed to release the public review draft of the EIS on July 1, 2008.

Recreation Plan - The Corps determined that the “Recreation Plan” in the Draft Environmental Impact Study (EIS) could not be completed in time for the congressional presentation this fall. Thus, Flood Project staff convened a group of flood project partner Parks and Open space representatives and is working diligently on alternatives to complete their own version of the recreation plan for inclusion in the overall Flood project plan.

TRAction Projects

North Truckee Drain TRAction Project - Much public input has gone into identifying the best route for the North Truckee Drain. At the last Stakeholder's meeting on 12-18-07, the alignment for the drain was selected- a very significant milestone. The next step is to have HDR finalize the feasibility report with preliminary costs. This will lead into a final design and permitting phase that will take approximately one year to 18 months. With the design and necessary permits in hand, the project will be offered for bid and construction will follow.

Recent cost estimates (prepared by Sparks consultants) for the North Truckee Drain discussed at the January Working Group have escalated from \$30 M to \$100M for this project element. Sparks staff and their consultants will continue to review the project costs.

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony TRAction Project - The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) Agreement Signing took place January 7th at the RSIC Facility Building on Reservation Road. This public-private partnership between the Flood Project, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Washoe County and Wal-Mart to build the very first Truckee River Flood Project feature was well attended by both the public and media. Senator Reid, along with elected officials from the Flood Project Coordinating Committee and approximately 75 other people, witnessed the momentous event. Groundbreaking is expected in March 2008.

Reno Bridges TRAction Project - Paul Urban, Project Manager has been working with the City of Reno on drawings and potential impacts associated with variations to the bridges and floodwalls for this Downtown Reno TRAction project. This work has been performed in preparation for the upcoming public meeting scheduled for March 20th at the McKinley Arts and Culture Center from 5-8pm.

On January 30, Flood Project and Reno staff held a conference call with the Federal Highways Administration, NDOT, and the Corps to coordinate efforts related to the EIS for the Virginia Street Bridge and the other bridges in downtown Reno. Several follow-up meetings are planned to improve coordination and resolve outstanding issues related to the Center Street and Virginia Street MOA regarding appropriate mitigation for historic structure loss.

Restoration Projects

Lockwood Restoration Project - The BCC approved an agreement for project funding to be used for flood restoration improvements and a recreational trailhead on a section of the Truckee River at Lockwood at the January 22nd meeting. Danielle Henderson, Natural Resource Manager and Paul Urban Project Manager have been working with the Nature Conservancy and Washoe County Parks on this project for interpretation and consensus with the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure credit for this important project. This partnership project will enhance the riverbanks and flow of the Truckee River, re-vegetate the area and provide a recreational trailhead. A total of 28.84 acres will be restored for about \$4.4 Million.

Local Sponsors/Collaborative Efforts

Storey County - Naomi Duerr, Director, Danielle Henderson, Natural Resources Manager and Paul Urban, Project Manager attended the Storey County Commission meeting January 15th. The Lockwood Restoration Project funding was discussed and approved by the Storey County Commission. In addition, the approval of the Cooperative Agreement giving Storey County the green light to join the Flood Project Coordinating Committee was discussed and approved by the Storey County Commission.

Southeast Connector Road – Flood Project Staff attended the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) public meeting January 29th concerning the Southeast Connector Plan Line Study. This is the first public meeting by RTC in response to the RTC Board direction to have a study done on this issue by July 31st.

Hidden Meadows- Danielle Henderson, Natural Resource Manager attended the Washoe/Storey Conservation District Board meeting January 24th. This was in response to the Hidden Meadows stakeholders “public comment” presentation made at the January 11th FPCC meeting asking for the Flood Project’s involvement. This project is not currently part of the Flood Project Plan.

Regional Hydrologic Model – Paul Urban is working with Reno, Sparks and County representatives on the regional hydrologic model to monitor flood impacts and land use changes. This is approximately a month from completion.

Land Acquisition/Land Management

Tenant Relocation - An amendment of the Flood Project's approved FY07-08 budget to establish a tenant relocation fund for \$2.7 million was approved at the FPCC meeting January 11th. The "resolution" is currently with legal counsel for review. The Board of County Commissioners are expected to make the appropriate budget adjustments to implement the relocation program.

Peri Ranch - Flood Project Staff met with owners of the Peri Ranch about possible acquisition of the property. The Peri Ranch is located east of Reno between Lockwood and Patrick. If acquired this land would become part of the Mustang Restoration project

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) Lease - Doug DuBois, Land Acquisition Manager has been working on the lease for the TMWA water truck filling station to be located at the end of Edison Way (former University of Nevada, Reno land). The item was approved at the January 11th Flood Project Coordinating Committee meeting, and will be brought before the BCC in February.

Funding

Senator Reid Briefing - Flood Project staff coordinated a "Briefing and Dialogue with Senator Harry Reid" on Monday, January 7th at 3:00 pm at the Larry D. Johnson Community Center. The more than 60 audience members included Flood Project Coordinating Committee members, elected officials and representatives from Reno, Sparks, Washoe County, Army Corp of Engineers (via telephone), Flood Project lobbyists (via telephone) and members of the community. Naomi Duerr delivered a presentation on the Flood Project's status and future needs. A question and answer session ensued with an invitation to Senator Reid to engage in another discussion in the near future.

Benefits Engineer Request for Qualifications (RFQ) – Flood Project staff met with FCS and CH2M Hill on contract negotiations regarding the "Truckee River Flood Funding Area Project." Contract negotiations were finalized on January 10th with the final contract was approved by the County Commission on January 22nd. The project study is anticipated to take approximately six months to complete.

This study will provide options on how identifying "flood funding areas" which benefit from the flood project and/or contribute to area flooding could be set up to help fund the flood project. The study will also produce a regional cost benefit analysis that will demonstrate the benefits of the flood project to the community and to Congress. The \$975,000 study will be funded entirely from the flood project's dedicated 1/8 cent sales tax.

Outreach

Taking Seminar - Mimi Fujii Strickler, Outreach Manager has scheduled a second series of "Takings Seminars" for February 8th, 8 am-10 am with the regularly scheduled FPCC meeting to follow. An afternoon session from 1:30 pm-5 pm in the Health Department North and South Conference Rooms will accommodate a broader audience to include developers, planners, real estate professionals, contractors and business leaders. The seminar is being designed to address "The Takings Doctrine and the No Adverse Impact Approach to Floodplain Management."

ASFPM Seminar - Paul Urban is working on the possibility of touring the Fernley Levee as part of the technical tours for the Associated Floodplain Managers National Conference scheduled May 18-23 at John Asquaga's Nugget.

Media Coverage - Due to our progress on the Flood Project this last year, and high profile, successful events last week (Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Levee Agreement Signing and the Senator Reid briefing), Jeff DeLong prepared a significant front page piece on the Truckee River Flood Project which appeared on February 4, 2008.

Staff/Personnel Update

Licensed Engineer Position - The recruitment has closed on the position and interviews are underway. These should be completed the first week of February.

Contract Personnel-Lisa Gianoli, former Washoe County Senior Manager is working with the Flood Project staff as project manager for the Flood Funding Area Study.

International Right of Way Association (IRWA) -Doug Dubois, Land Acquisition Manager, attended the monthly IRWA meeting highlighting accepted industry standards on valuation of furniture, fixtures and equipment (ffe).

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.

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Attachment: Flood and Flood Project related news clippings