



FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 14, 2008

DATE: March 7, 2008

TO: Flood Project Coordinating Committee Members

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

SUBJECT: Accept Truckee River Flood Management Project Status Report for February 2008

SUMMARY

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

PREVIOUS ACTION

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

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

The Corps

Army Corp of Engineers (Corps) – Chan Modini, the new Corps Project Manager for the Truckee River Flood Project was introduced at the February FPCC meeting. Chan will be replacing long time Project Manager Tim Kelleher and will be attending monthly FPCC meetings to provide project updates and answer questions regarding the activities and accomplishments of the Corps' project team.

Flood Project Staff is working with the Corps to clarify policy questions relative to the North Truckee Drain Realignment TRAction Project, Lockwood, Long Valley Creek, Rainbow Bend and 100- vs. 117-year Flood Protection.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a partial General Reevaluation Report (GRR) from the Corps was posted February 29th for Internal Technical Review (ITR) by the Flood Project

AGENDA ITEM #11

Staff and partners. The remaining portion of the GRR is expected March 12th. The local sponsors have 30 days to review and comment on the documents.

Recreation Plan – The Flood Project staff and Parks and Open Space representatives are working on the scope of work for the Recreation Plan as a preparatory step to securing a consultant to work on this important piece of the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP) goal.

TRAction Projects

North Truckee Drain TRAction Project - Recent cost estimates (prepared by Sparks consultants) for the North Truckee Drain discussed at the January Working Group have escalated from \$30 M to \$81M for this project element. Sparks staff and their consultants will continue to review the project costs. An update on the North Truckee Drain Project will be presented at the April FPCC meeting.

Sparks Sewer fee – The Sparks City Council approved an ordinance at the February 25 City Council meeting providing for a flood protection charge of \$5.41 per month per residential account and 64 cents per 1,000 gallons for commercial accounts to help fund the North Truckee Drain project. The changes will be reflected in the 2nd quarter sewer bills. These new fees are estimated to generate between \$80 and 100 million in bond revenues, depending on how quickly the bonds are sold.

Hidden Valley TRAction Project - A stakeholder meeting was held March 5th from 6:00-9:00 pm at the Washoe County Department of Water Resources Community Conference Room. HDR Engineering discussed project design elements, anticipated project costs, and next steps with the group. A comparison of options (levee, floodwall, home elevation and home buy-out) showed that home elevation and buy-out were significantly cheaper options than the construction of a floodwall or levee.

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony TRAction Project – The RSIC TRAction Project costs have been approved for credit (section 104) by the Army Corp of Engineers with an official sign-off by Assistant Secretary of the Army, Woodley. Groundbreaking for the levee is expected in May 2008.

Reno Bridges TRAction Project - On January 30th, 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 – Flood Project Staff met with surveyors for determination of boundaries in preparation for potential easements from the State in the construction of the improvements and recreational trailhead approved at the January 22nd Board of County Commissioners meeting. A total of 29 acres will be restored for about \$4.4 Million.

A Lockwood Restoration “kick-off” meeting was held February 20 with the Nature Conservancy, Washoe County (Legal, Community Relations, and Parks) and Flood Project staff in attendance. This was a meeting to determine everyone’s roles, timeframes and next steps in starting this project. Restoration activities are expected to start this summer with a groundbreaking celebration

Local Sponsors/Collaborative Efforts

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – A primary discussion topic at the **January 25 TAC** meeting centered on the possibility of changing the TAC process to include publicly noticing the agenda. The Regional Transportation Commission TAC bylaws and the Clark County Flood Control District TAC bylaws were distributed to the group prior to the meeting for review and discussion. The group consensus was to keep the informal meeting format because it provides the best communication links among and between the partner agencies and staff, with the ability to discuss a wide range of topics, including those not included on the agenda.

At the January 25 TAC meeting, Director Duerr presented a detailed overview of the flood funding study. The Flood Funding Study group is composed of a subset of the TAC with two participants from each jurisdiction.

Discussion at the **February 1 TAC** focused entirely on review of the FY09 Flood Project budget. Naomi Duerr, the Flood Project Director presented an overview of the budget, including focused discussion on the land acquisition program, TRAction projects and outreach program.

Discussion at the **February 29 TAC** focused on the TRAction projects. TAC members helped develop and articulate basic criteria for the evaluation of proposed TRAction projects and additional factors to help in setting TRAction Project priorities.

The TAC also discussed hot items related to the Corps **Internal Technical Review** process. The ITR is about to get underway. The Monday after the TAC meeting, the Corps planned to place the newest version of the **DRAFT EIS** and the **Basis of Design** on their FTP site for local sponsor download. In mid-March, the Corps plans to post additional information on the FTP site related to the **General Re-evaluation Report** and the **latest cost estimates**. Following discussion, the Project Management Team agreed to meet weekly to discuss their ongoing review of the documents. The local sponsors have approximately 30 days to complete our review of the documents and provide comments back to the Corps. These meetings are set to start the second week of March.

Working Group – Flood Project Director Naomi Duerr provided the Working Group with an in-depth report on the **Flood Funding Study**, currently underway. Topics covered included the composition of the local oversight team, the selected consultants (FCS Group and CH2MHill), and the six tasks that are to be performed.

Kerri Williams, City of Reno Engineer and Paul Urban, Flood Project Manager, provided an update on the draft **flood storage mitigation ordinance** and the progress made on developing the hydrologic/hydraulic model. The ordinance team plans to present a complete draft version of the ordinance and supporting exhibits to the Working Group at the end of February and later to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) in March.

Shawn Gooch, Floodplain Manager presented the most recent cost estimates, alignment options and other information regarding the North Truckee Drain Re-Alignment. JoAnn Meacham, Utility Manager, reported on the February 25th Sparks City Council meeting approval of the funding “stream” for the sewer rate increase for the “North Truckee Drain TRAction Project”.

NDOT (Nevada Dept. of Transportation), FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) Coordination – Naomi Duerr and Danielle Henderson travelled to Carson City for a kick-off meeting with NDOT and the FHWA to promote open communications and coordination of the

Flood Project. This was the start of what will become regularly scheduled meetings with these important partners. The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) also attended.

US 395 Improvements - Danielle Henderson, Natural Resource Planner, attended the US 395 widening project (from Moana to I-80) Aesthetics Stakeholder Working Group. Concepts and treatments were presented along with identified limitations. The next step in the process is a stakeholder vote on a preferred concept and a discussion on design adjustments to reach consensus. Flood project staff has been invited to participate because of the potential impact to the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) TRAction project.

Flood Storage Mitigation Model Code Development - The Flood Project staff held two meetings in February between staff and attorneys from the three jurisdictions to edit the draft model ordinance developed by the City of Reno and format it into a regional model ordinance. The model ordinance will be reviewed by the Working Group and TAC, and then brought back to the FPCC. Once the FPCC signs off on the ordinance, it will be forwarded to the partner jurisdictions for review and possible implementation.

Land Acquisition/Land Management

Tenant Relocation – Doug DuBois, Land Acquisition Manager completed the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Property Specialist group to assist the Flood Project with tenant relocation. The FPCC approved a preliminary relocation budget of \$2.7 million. This action will be followed by the distribution of a Request for Proposal to hire one or more relocation firms.

Excel Building - Doug DuBois, Land Acquisition Manager took the Department of Wildlife (NDOW) on a tour of the Excel building to determine their space needs and how this property might fit those needs. University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and Washoe County Parks are also reviewing this site for a “fit” for their space needs.

Funding

Benefits Engineer Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Update –The bi-monthly meetings of the Project Oversight Team started February 15th, and the first briefing of the Finance Subcommittee by the consultants will occur in April 2008. The project study is anticipated to take approximately six–eight months to complete. Outreach efforts to Citizen Advisory Boards (CABS), Neighborhood Advisory Committees (NABS) and the Sparks Citizens Advisory Committee (SCAC) began with the East Reno, Ward 3 NAB on February 28th. Approximately 25 meetings are planned. This month also saw a lot of activity in data collection. UNR made a significant amount of economic data available to the project this month. Stakeholder interviews are set to begin in a few weeks. The purpose of these interviews will be to validate flood damage losses in the 1997 flood in support of Task 1- Completion of a Cost–Benefit Analysis for the whole flood project. CH2MHill’s first draft of the geographic flood funding area boundary maps are underway and expected to be completed next month.

Lobbying Services - Annual contract renewals for the Carmen Group, Inc. for Federal Lobbying Services and Marcus G. Faust, P.C. for Congressional and Federal Lobbying Services will be before the March 14th FPCC Board and considered by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on March 25. Each of the firms has provided effective congressional and federal lobbying services to the Flood Project. The Flood Project anticipates a continuing need for lobbying services, especially in this year (March 2008-March 2009) of expected

Congressional project authorization and appropriation. The Project Cooperative Agreement will also be a big issue in the coming year.

Senator Reid's Office – Paul Urban, Project Manager and Mimi Fujii-Strickler, Project Supervisor met with Chris Miller from Senator Reid's Washington D.C. Office. This meeting, held at the request of Senator Reid's office, was to prepare for the congressional authorization and funding later this year.

Outreach

Takings Seminar – The Flood Project held another “No Adverse Impact - Takings” seminar on February 8th with guest speaker Ed Thomas, Esq. from Michael bakers Jr., Inc. The seminar was designed for two separate sessions with the morning session geared toward Elected and Community Officials, Senior Management, and FPCC members. The afternoon session provided a more in-depth presentation for the planning, real estate and legal community. Both seminars were extremely informative and attendees' reviews for the seminar were all extremely favorable. There have already been requests to bring back Ed Thomas to provide additional seminars on the topic to specific councils and boards.

Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) – The February 8th, 2008 FPCC Board meeting scheduled after the Takings Seminar was informational only due to the lack of a quorum. All items will be carried forward to the March 14th FPCC meeting.

Staff/Personnel Update

Licensed Engineer Position - The Licensed Engineer recruitment has been extended through the month of March. Interested candidates may apply though the Washoe County Human Resources website at www.washoecounty.us/humanresources.

Emergency Operations Training – Doug DuBois and Mimi Fujii-Strickler attended Emergency Operations Training at the Emergency Operations Center to prepare the Flood Project Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP). virtually all Flood Project Staff members have now completed the ICS 100 training through the online course offered by the Emergency Management Institute.

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.

ND: sk

Attachment: Flood and Flood Project related news clippings

AGENDA ITEM #11