



## FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE: April 11, 2008**

**DATE:** March 31, 2008

**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 March 2008

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### **SUMMARY**

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

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

The most recent status report was presented to the FPCC at their March 14, 2008 meeting.

### **MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

#### **Corps Activities**

**Army Corp of Engineers (Corps)** - The Corps Internal Technical Review process (ITR) is underway. The Corps placed the newest version of the DRAFT EIS and the Basis of Design on their FTP site for local sponsor download March 5th. In mid-March, the Corps posted additional information on the FTP site related to the General Re-evaluation Report (GRR) and the latest cost estimates. The Project Management Team agreed to meet weekly to discuss their ongoing review of the documents. The local sponsors' deadline for review is April 9th

**Recreation Plan** - Flood Project staff has interviewed four firms for the purpose of developing a concept level Recreation Plan and cost estimate to be inserted into the Draft EIS and GRR prior to the July deadline. In addition, Flood Project staff invited the Reno, Sparks and Washoe County Parks' Managers and planners to a charrette (sometimes called a design charrette - consists of an intense period of design activity) to further help conceive and plan the Truckee River Corridor Recreation Plan. Stantec has been selected as the recreation plan consultant and a contract is now being developed.

AGENDA ITEM #10A

### **TRAction Projects**

**Hidden Valley TRAction Project** - Because of the additional outreach and cost estimating work required to complete the Hidden Valley Project, a change order has been developed to amend the HDR scope and adjust the cost accordingly. HDR Engineering has proposed that they do the additional work for an added cost of \$70,000. This results in a new cost of the Hidden Valley feasibility study of \$305,000. The “change order” was approved at the March 14<sup>th</sup> FPCC meeting.

**Reno Bridges TRAction Project** – Reno and flood project staff attended the Bridge Visioning meeting March 20<sup>th</sup> at the McKinley Arts and Culture Center. CH2MHill facilitated the meeting with approximately 40 people in attendance. The meeting included a summary of the input received last October, scenarios displaying the benefits and impacts of various levels of flood protection for the 50-year, 74-year and 100-year events, plus a summary of input and feedback from the various scenarios. Next steps in the process include a compilation of feedback from this meeting and previous meetings, and another public workshop in late summer 2008.

### **Restoration Projects**

**102 Ranch** – The FPCC approved the 102 Ranch as a TRAction project at the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Construction of the 102 Ranch TRAction Project is expected to start in August 2008 and will result in approximately \$3.1 million in non-federal (local) funds being credited to the local cost-share requirement for the Flood Project. The source of the local funds for this project is a \$4.775 million grant received from the state of Nevada. Under Corps’ cost-share formulas (35% local sponsor: 65% federal), our investment could provide significant returns with regard to local cost-share credit and generate substantial federal funds to support restoration along the Truckee River. The funding agreement will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Patti Bakker, Project Director from The Nature Conservancy gave a presentation to the Storey County Planning Commission March 20<sup>th</sup> regarding the 102 Ranch. Ms. Bakker provided an overview of the project including the construction schedule, habitat restoration and weed abatement.

**Lockwood Restoration Project** - On December 14, 2007, the FPCC approved the Lockwood ecosystem restoration as a TRAction Project, and authorized the expenditure of up to \$150,000 in Flood Project funds to demolish the existing buildings on the Monday Property in preparation for restoration of the site. Demolition, hazardous material removal and site-clearing contractors have been contacted and are prepared to proceed with the necessary work. This demolition work was approved at the March 14<sup>th</sup> FPCC meeting.

Susie Kapahee, Flood Project Public Information Officer will be notifying the public of weed-spraying and access issues associated with fencing at the Lockwood Restoration site the first week of April. The work is expected to commence in mid-April. A project fact sheet is also being developed in a coordinated effort with all the partners and will be available in April.

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

**US 395 Improvements** - Danielle Henderson, Natural Resource Manager, reviewed the various options for US 395 Improvements landscapes and aesthetics with Flood Project staff. Comments and suggestions from staff were sent to the US 395 Improvement Committee. The options reviewed reflected a 30% level design.

**Southeast Connector** – Paul Urban met with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) staff to evaluate how the proposed Southeast Connector Road model works in conjunction with the hydraulic model. The RTC are in the early stages of determining potential mitigation requirements based on alignments.

**Aesthetics Design Committee** - Danielle Henderson and Mimi Fujii-Strickler held the first Aesthetics Design Committee Meeting on March 26, 2008. The intent of the committee is to develop guidelines that will assure a consistent theme for the entire Flood Project. The group discussed the look and feel of the various Flood Project components with the focus placed on those elements most visible to the public (e.g., floodwalls, levees and other hard surface components). The next meeting will be on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Flood Storage Mitigation Model Code Development** – Paul Urban, Flood Project Manager along with other members of the Project Management Team and Floodplain Managers, continued work on the language and details of the Flood Storage Mitigation Model Code. The revisions were presented at the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) meeting March 14<sup>th</sup>. No action was taken and staff was asked to bring this back in April after legal counsel from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County had reviewed the Flood Storage Mitigation Model Code.

**Working Group** - A member of the working group expressed strong opposition to the proposed flood storage mitigation model ordinance language which, as currently drafted, would allow a 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a foot increase in flood levels for each development. He emphasized the need to have a zero increase or even a decrease in the modeled flood levels in order to not compromise the floodplain. The member also stated that he would not support any model ordinance language that allows for variance approval by any administrator or elected governing body. Director Naomi Duerr encouraged those present to attend a final public meeting on the proposed ordinance.

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** – TAC members discussed the Draft Model Ordinance and the lack of consensus between the three government entities. The group made suggestions on a possible path to finalize the ordinance to the satisfaction of Washoe County, Sparks and Reno. The Working Group's objection to the 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a foot in the model was also discussed. The TAC also discussed the TRAction projects and new criteria for their evaluation, as well as the inadvisability of weighting and ranking the criteria. Other TAC discussion centered on a general consensus to drop consideration of development of an alternate flood project plan (or contingency plan) at this time due to the need to continue focusing on finalizing the Corps' plan and maintain unity and focus among the project sponsors. There was support for "keeping our eyes on the ball" and not creating a potential rift in the community.

**Hydrologic Criteria and Drainage Design Manual (HCDDM)** - Paul Urban, along with other experts, is working on the final editing and review of this important document. The HCDDM is widely used by civil engineers for design development and is expected to be finalized in May 2008.

## **Funding**

**Flood Funding Study** - The consultants are continuing to collect data and are in the process of interviewing businesses that have been affected by previous floods. The data collected will enable the consultant to develop maps of direct and indirect benefit areas, as well as runoff contribution areas. The draft maps were reviewed by the TAC and will be presented to the Finance Subcommittee for their review and input.

**Senator Reid's Office** – Senior Flood Project staff have been working on draft language for the Corps' appropriation request along with our federal lobbyists and staff from Senator Reid's office. Draft language was placed in the Energy and Water appropriations bill a few weeks ago as a placeholder.

**Congressman Heller's Office** - Naomi Duerr, Paul Urban and Nick Anthony (City of Reno Lobbyist) met with Greg Facchiano of Congressman Heller's Washington D.C. office and provided an update and tour of the Flood Project.

**Grant Award** - The State of Nevada's reduced grant awarded to the Flood Project for river restoration was approved at the March 14<sup>th</sup> Flood Project Control Committee meeting. The grant amount was reduced 4.5% from the original amount of \$5 million to \$4.775 million.

**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 were approved at the March 14<sup>th</sup> FPCC Board meeting and the Board of County Commissioners on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Each of the firms has provided effective congressional and federal lobbying services to the Flood Project. The Flood Project expects to continue to require lobbying services in the upcoming year, especially in this year (March 2008-March 2009) of expected Congressional project authorization and appropriation. This year is also expected to involve developing and signing the Project Cooperative Agreement- now known as the Project Partnership Agreement or PPA.

### **Land Acquisition/Land Management**

**Excel Building** - Doug DuBois, Land Acquisition Manager has been working with Washoe County Facilities Management and the Friends of Washoe County Library to provide the Excel building space for the annual Washoe County Library fundraising booksale in April.

### **Outreach**

**Flood Funding Study** - Outreach for the Flood Funding Area Study has begun. Flood Project staff have developed a schedule to meet with every NAB, CAB, and CAC in the region, and brief these advisory board members on the flood project and the flood funding study. In total, approximately 25 meetings have been scheduled. In recent weeks, flood project staff have met with 9 of the advisory groups, in addition to participating in Commissioner Jung's Town Hall Meeting and the Hidden Valley Homeowner's meeting. Thus far, the response to the briefings has ranged from mild interest to enthusiastic support. The plan is to provide follow-up briefings to the advisory groups once the consultants have concluded their work.

**Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM)** –The ASFPM will convene the world's largest and most comprehensive floodplain management conference – the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual gathering - the week of May 18-23, 2008, in Reno-Sparks, Nevada. Flood Project staff is taking the lead for the Technical Field Tours and Media for this important conference.

### **Staff/Personnel Update**

**Licensed Engineer Position** - The Licensed Engineer recruitment ended March 14<sup>th</sup> with an interview schedule being developed for April.

**Fiscal Compliance Officer** - The recruitment for this position has started.

**Emergency Management Training** – Virtually all flood staff have completed the training course “Introduction to the Incident Command System” (IS-00100.FW).

**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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