



FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 8, 2008

DATE: July 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 June and July 2008

SUMMARY

A status report on the activities related to the Truckee River Flood Management Project for the months of June and July 2008 is provided herein.

PREVIOUS ACTION

The most recent status report was presented to the FPCC at their June 13, 2008 meeting.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Preserve and Enhance Our Quality of Life

Emergency Preparedness - Paul Urban, Flood Project Manager, created and presented all modeling for the Dam Break Exercise on June 17th. The scenario, known as "Vigilant Guard", was an exercise to provide a forum for Washoe County regional government and others to discuss how they would work collaboratively to develop and implement a mass evacuation and mass care shelter operation in response to a dam break in order to minimize loss of life. Staff members Naomi Duerr and Susie Kapahee participated in the exercise.

Corps Activities

Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) - On June 6th, Danielle Henderson, Natural Resource Manager submitted a Section 113 (ecosystem restoration) cost-share credit approval for the 102 Ranch Restoration Project and Lockwood Restoration Projects. Section 113 gets its name from the section of law Senator Reid obtained to support the flood project. No where else in the country is credit allowed for early ecosystem restoration. Ecosystem restoration involves construction of river channel meanders, riffles and point bar; creation of wetlands;

restoration of abandoned gravel pits; and revegetation of riparian and upland areas with native plant species.

Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) - At the June 13th FPCC meeting, Chan Modini, ACOE Project Manager, reported that the flood project timeline schedule had changed. A Project Review Board meeting was scheduled for July 8th in response to this change.

Staff attended a Project Review Board (PRB) meeting in Sacramento on July 8th that included all ACOE personnel working on the Flood Project, Director Duerr, Manager Urban and Supervisor Fujii-Strickler and Colonel Chapman. At the meeting, it became clear that the key milestones (i.e. Alternative Formulation Board (AFB), Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Chief's Report) for the Truckee River Flood Project have moved "out" approximately seven months. In response to this, a two-day "partnering session" was scheduled for Flood Project Staff and ACOE staff on July 16-17 in Sacramento. The two-day session included schedule review, policy issues, process improvements and action items for review by both parties to determine key milestones and schedule movement. The review and finalization of schedule changes is in process and should be completed in August. Eric Scheetz of the Flood Project will also begin documenting weekly ad hoc meetings to help expedite the action items.

Corps Crediting - The ACOE Sacramento office offered a crediting seminar that was attended by Trish Yohey, Fiscal Officer and Paul Urban, Flood Project Manager June 12th.

TRAction Projects

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony TRAction Project - A Development and Finance Agreement with the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) (an interlocal cooperative agreement) and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. regarding construction of a 2,241-foot flood levee on Colony and State of Nevada land East of US.395 and North of Second Street in Reno will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners July 15th. If approved, this action would authorize the Chairman to execute the Development and Finance Agreement and sign any required easements upon presentation. Construction contracts would be presented to the Board for approval at a later meeting.

Hidden Valley TRAction Project - Eric Scheetz, Engineer, talked with the homeowners in Gardnerville that had homes elevated after the 1997 flood. This included their interactions with contractors, Douglas County and FEMA. This information gathering was in preparation for a possible option of the Hidden Valley TRAction project homes to be elevated if included in the final recommendation.

North Truckee Drain (NTD) Traction Project - Naomi Duerr and Paul Urban met with JoAnn Meacham, Utility Manager from Sparks and retired ACOE Colonel Don Pawlowsk, hired by Sparks as a consultant on the North Truckee Drain TRAction project. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Corps document review in the coming year for the NTD project.

The July 21st meeting of the Sparks City Council included a vote to *not* fund the design contract for the North Truckee Drain TRAction Project until a Corps guarantee of credit was in place. Shawn Gooch reported that the item would be back on the Sparks City Council agenda near September 8th with changes to the scope and timing of the project.

Southeast Connector Road - Flood Project Staff attended the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Board Meeting on June 20th concerning the Southeast Connector Plan Line Study (alignment options). The RTC Board voted to acknowledge receipt of the Southeast Connector Plan Study. No alignment preference was selected at this meeting. At the Working Group meeting July 31st, Garth Oskol (RTC) talked about the Southeast Connector and timeframes relative to the project. August 11th or 18th are the tentative dates for another community meeting, with September 19th scheduled for presentation to the RTC Board with the final preferred alignment.

Reno Bridges TRAction Project - Paul Urban and Eric Scheetz met with City of Reno staff to discuss the what, how and when for the Reno Bridges TRAction Project presentation to Reno City Council. The discussion included benefits of bridge supports above versus below, 100-yr versus 74-yr flood protection and general aesthetics of the river corridor as it relates to the project. The presentation to the Reno City Council is expected in August.

Storey County - Paul Urban and Eric Scheetz met with Connie Butts of the East Canyon General Improvement District (GID) in June and July to continue 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 Effort

Recreation Plan - Danielle Henderson, Natural Resource Manager presented an update of the Recreation Plan at the June 13th FPCC meeting. The conceptual plan included a set of possible recreation features overlaid on the footprint of the flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration features of the Flood Project. Information from the conceptual plan will be added to the General Re-Evaluation Report (GRR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as appropriate. Flood Project Staff continues to work with Stantec to finish the detailed narrative for the plan in anticipation of presenting a complete package to the Corps in the near future.

At the request of Vice-Chair Jessica Sferrazza, Danielle Henderson attended the joint meeting of the Recreation Facilities Subcommittee of the Reno City Council June 16th. This was to answer questions about the conceptual Recreation Plan as presented at the June 13th FPCC meeting.

Danielle Henderson met with Storey County Public Works Director Dean Haymore and Connie Butts of the East Canyon GID July 9th to address concerns that were raised about the conceptual Recreation Plan presented at the June 13th FPCC meeting.

The current plan is to hand off continued development of the recreation plan to Corps staff in Texas, with assistance to be provided by Stantec and local sponsors. The final plan is now scheduled for completion in December 2008.

Lockwood Restoration Project - The Nature Conservancy started weed abatement at the Lockwood River Restoration Area in June. The area being sprayed will be inside temporary fencing with "No Public Access" signs posted and is expected to take approximately two weeks. The fencing and access restrictions will remain in place for the duration of the project.

Regional Hydrologic Model - Purchasing has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to Engineering firms for the development of a regional hydrologic model for the Flood Project that was due July 24th. Review of the RFQ's will begin in August with staff from Reno, Sparks, Washoe County, and the Flood Project. This tool is a regional hydrologic model set up with a resolution sufficient to determine impacts from land use changes as small as 5 to 10 acres. This RFQ will

start the process of identifying firms who can use 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 - Garth Oskol (Regional Transportation Commission) presented information on the Southeast Connector and timeframes relative to the project. August 11th or 18th are the tentative dates for another community meeting and September 19th for the presentation to the RTC Board with the final preferred alignment. In addition, Director Duerr presented the latest Flood Funding Study findings which included “direct” versus “indirect” benefits, rates, taxes, fees, areas to be included and the basis for these as defined by the Benefits Engineer.

Discussion also included the Corps delay of the schedule by approximately seven months and what possible impacts that could have to the Flood Project, if any.

Shawn Gooch from the City of Sparks relayed the Sparks City Council’s July 21st decision not to fund the design contract for the North Truckee Drain TRAction Project until a Corps guarantee was in place. He reported that the item would be back on the Sparks City Council agenda September 8th with changes to the scope and timing of the project.

Limehouse Software - Flood Project Staff met with Community Development for a demonstration of Limehouse Software. This software is used to engage stakeholders in consultation and is being reviewed for its potential use for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) when it is released to the public by the Army Corp of Engineers early next year.

Funding

Flood Funding Study - FCS and CH2MHill updated the Finance Subcommittee at the June 10th meeting. The Board of County Commissioners received an update at the July 15th meeting on the Flood Funding Study and regional cost-benefit analysis for the Truckee River Flood Project. This study is occurring per the January 2008 agreement between Washoe County and the FCS Group to implement a flood funding area study and a regional cost-benefit analysis. 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.

FEMA Grant Program - Flood Project Staff met with Manhard Consulting to learn what grant programs may be available through FEMA that could apply to features within the Flood Project thereby reducing local costs. The programs discussed included pre and post mitigation grants. Staff will follow-up on this meeting with further research.

Land Acquisition/Land Management

Relocation Services Request For Proposal (RFP) - The Flood Project Real Estate review team completed its review of the responses to the RFP approved by the Board of County Commissioners 4.15.08. The proposals were to include Statements of Qualifications and fee schedules from professional Relocation Consultants to perform relocation services for the “Truckee River Flood Project”. The project area will incorporate all of Washoe County and parts of Storey County, Nevada. The primary focus of the Relocation Consultant is anticipated to be in the relocation of tenants. Most, if not all, acquisition and property management duties will be performed by project staff. This information will be agendized for the Flood Finance Coordinating Committee (FPCC) meeting August 8th.

Excel Building - Doug DuBois, Land Acquisition Manager is working with the Friends of Washoe County Library to determine if the Excel Building can be used in its present condition to house the Friends' vast selection of used books and hold public sales. The proceeds from the sales are used to support the Washoe County Library System.

TMWA Lease - At the July 15th meeting, the Board of County Commissioners approved a ground lease agreement between Washoe County and Truckee Meadows Water Authority for the use of Flood Project lands for a truck watering station [anticipated lease rental income per month of \$2,000]. This action authorizes the Chairman to execute the ground lease agreement. The property is approximately 1-acre of the 60-acre UNR Mill and McCarran property (5305 Mill Street) and will be used as a water truck filling station.

Lease Agreement with Bristlecone - At the June 13th meeting, the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) approved the updated lease agreement with Bristlecone Family Resources, Inc. This was after Bristlecone's first twelve months as a tenant of the Flood Project at 1725 S. McCarran Boulevard. The Board of County Commissioners approved the lease agreement amendment at the July 15th meeting. This action authorizes the Chairman to execute the amendment that was approved by the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) June 13th.

Outreach

Floodplain Management Association (FMA) Conference - Flood Project Staff will present at the FMA Annual Conference being held in San Diego September 2-5th. With over 400 attendees, the conference brings together regulators, scientists, planners, engineers and researchers to address the latest policy and technical issues in floodplain management. This year's program will focus on key elements of floodplain sustainability: flood risk, land use and environmental stewardship.

Outreach - Susie Kapahee, Public Information Officer presented an overview of the Flood Project at the Downtown Reno Kiwanis Club meeting June 18th with an invitation to return as project funding recommendations are made by the benefits engineer later this year.

Media Coverage - Jeff DeLong, an environmental reporter for the Reno Gazette-Journal reported on the Recreation Plan in the June 14th issue of the newspaper. The report included updated information presented by Danielle Henderson, Natural Resource Manager at the FPCC meeting June 13th. In addition, Channel 2, the local CBS affiliate reported on the Recreation Plan on the June 18th evening edition and June 19th morning edition showing the conceptual drawings forwarded to all media along with the press release June 18th.

Celebrate the Living River - The annual event is scheduled for Friday, August 15th at 1725 S. McCarran Blvd. (Bristlecone Family Resources) at 10 AM with tours and presentations at 11:00 a.m.

Staff/Personnel Update

Administrative Assistant - Laura Bayer joined the Flood Project June 9th. Laura comes to the Flood Project from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office where her job included executive level administrative support for the Undersheriff and two Assistant Sheriffs. Other positions included a wide variety of administrative positions with organizations ranging from the City of North Las Vegas

Public Works and Parks and Recreation, United States Olympic Committee Broadcasting Division, to the Chicago White Sox where she acted as a Personal Assistant to the Vice Chairman/Owner.

Deputy Director - Recruitment efforts are currently underway for a Deputy Director for the Flood Project.

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

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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