



Flood Project E-Update **July 19 - 26, 2007**

Improve Public Safety, Health and Security

Hydrologic Criteria and Drainage Design Manual Working Group – On July 17, Flood Project staff met with a work group consisting of local agencies regarding the “Rainfall and Run-off” chapter of the Hydrologic Criteria and Drainage Design Manual. The group is conducting a chapter-by-chapter review of the criteria and recommending improvements.

Improve Regional Collaboration

Army Corps appoints Colonel Chapman – Flood Project Coordinating Committee Vice-Chair, Bob Larkin, and Flood Project Director, Naomi Duerr, attended the Change of Command ceremony hosted by the Army Corps of Engineers. This official US Army ceremony transferred the command of the Army Corps’ Sacramento District from Colonel Ronald Light to Colonel Thomas Chapman. Colonel Ronald Light, the previous commander, received orders to report to the US Army Corps’ Transatlantic Programs Center in Winchester, VA. He will be responsible for Corps activities in all of Europe and the Mideast except for Iraq and Afghanistan.

Hidden Valley Traction Project - On July 17, 2007, the third stakeholders working group meeting was held on the Hidden Valley TRAction project. The consultant HDR, Inc. and Washoe County staff answered the residents’ many questions about the proposed levee and flood walls. In addition to the meetings, HDR, Inc. will be making site visits to individual properties affected by the project. The next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for mid-August. At that meeting, stakeholders will recommend their preferred alternative for the project.

Working Group/TAC Joint Meeting – At the request of the City of Reno, the Working Group and the Technical Advisory Committee met jointly to review the work performed by consultant Wood Rogers for the City of Reno regarding proposed ordinance amendments to regulate development in Critical Flood Zone #1. Following the two hour presentation and Q & A, the joint group registered support for amending the Reno ordinance to include the concept of “no adverse impact”, and to require that any mitigation for fill in the floodplain (i.e., excavation) be placed as close as possible to the fill and close to the same elevation as the fill.

However, the joint group did not appear to believe that Wood Rogers' evaluation of the 1:1 flood storage mitigation ratio was conclusive enough to be forwarded to the Reno Council. The following concerns were expressed by the participants:

- 1) The modeling tool used by Wood Rogers was not appropriate for the use (i.e., it was not discrete or predictive enough),
- 2) The results of the modeling runs were far too variable with no clear patterns to form a supportable conclusion,
- 3) The modeling data set should have been larger and should have included data which would have more appropriately bracketed the probable outcomes so that clear differences in the mitigation ratios emerged,
- 4) The analysis was too limited in that it included only one variable (storage volume) when floodplain managers know that many other factors affect appropriate mitigation ratios such as surface roughness, water friction, amount of impervious surface a proposed development, measurement errors, cumulative impacts, etc.
- 5) No safety factor was included in the analysis or in the recommendations for ordinance revision. The Working Group believes strongly that given the potential for error in the calculations and the risks of getting it wrong, that a safety factor is a must in any floodplain ordinance used in the Truckee Meadows. Of note, the Corps includes safety factors in all of their planning and construction work.

Reno staff plan to meet to evaluate the comments and develop recommendations for the Reno Council.

Improve Government Efficiency and Financial Stability

RFQ for Cost Benefits Engineer - Flood Project staff met this week with Finance and Public Works staff from the flood project partners, regarding finalizing a request for qualifications (RFQ) process to hire a Benefits Engineer. As soon as the RFQ wording is resolved, the Flood Project will seek bids from professional engineering consultants to perform engineering and economic analysis services for the Truckee River Flood Funding Area Project.

New Deputy District Attorney hired for Flood Project – Greg Salter, Esq., formerly with the Sparks' Planning Department was recently hired by the DA's office as the new legal counsel for the Flood Project land acquisition activities. Mr. Salter's time will be shared between the Flood Project and the Department of Water Resources