



# WASHOE COUNTY

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CM/ACM\_\_\_\_\_

Finance\_N/A\_

DA\_N/A\_

Risk Mgt.\_N/A\_

HR\_N/A\_

Other\_N/A\_

## STAFF REPORT

**BOARD MEETING DATE: February 23, 2010**

**DATE:** February 3, 2010  
**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**FROM:** Naomi Duerr, P.G., Director, Truckee River Flood Management Project,  
850-7420 nduerr@washoecounty.us  
**SUBJECT:** **Acknowledge Receipt of Truckee River Flood Management Project  
Status Report for January 2010. (All Commission Districts.)**

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### SUMMARY

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

**County Priorities/Goals supported by this item:** Preserving natural resources. Promoting quality economic development; managing intermittent flooding events along the Truckee River, thereby protecting property, restoring habitat, improving water quality and promoting recreational uses.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

The most recent status report for November and December 2009 was presented to the Board of County Commissioners at the January 26, 2010 meeting.

### BACKGROUND

Below is a list of the primary activities that were accomplished in the month of January 2010.

### Local Sponsors/Collaborative Efforts

**NED vs. LPP** – Flood Project staff and representatives of the local partners traveled to Sacramento for a two-day meeting with the Corps to discuss the current effort to re-evaluate the level of flood protection (and thus cost-sharing) to be included in the Corps' National Economic Development Plan (NED). Staff met with the external peer reviewers for hydrology and economics. The peer reviewers identified a number of issues with the Corps' technical work and the group jointly agreed to recommend to senior management correction of the significant errors identified. This effort is expected to take 6 to 8 months and as a result to delay the potential Congressional authorization of the project by a year. The benefit of the approach is that the errors corrected may improve the end result and increase the level of protection selected for the NED (and thus increase the cost share).

**AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_**

The additional quality assurance review is also expected to provide a greater level of confidence to the ultimate peer reviewers.

**NED – External Peer Review** - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers updated the FPCC at the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting on the recently completed peer review of the economic and hydraulic models to refine the National Economic Development plan (NED) and determine a new level of flood protection to be cost shared by the Corps of Engineers. The peer reviewers identified a number of issues with the Corps' technical work and recommended correction of the significant errors identified. This effort is expected to take 6-to-8 months, and as a result delay potential Congressional authorization of the project by a year. The benefit of the approach is that the errors corrected may improve the end result and increase the level of protection selected for the NED, thus increasing the Corps' cost share for the project. The additional quality assurance review is also expected to provide a greater level of confidence to the ultimate peer reviewers.

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** – The TAC met January 12<sup>th</sup> and discussed a variety of topics with a major focus on the Corps Project Report and Schedule Update and the Home Elevation Financing Program. Deputy Director Aldean presented findings from the January 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> meetings with the Corps in Sacramento regarding the Agency Technical Review (ATR) and External Technical (ETR) workshop and project scheduling workshop. The “reveal” included issues with the economic and hydraulic modeling with both requiring corrections. A number of options to correct the modeling issues were discussed at the meeting with the TAC accepting the report.

**Working Group** - Working Group met January 20<sup>th</sup> and discussed a number of items that included the Corps schedule, Hidden Valley Home Elevation Program, an update on the progress of the formation of a JPA, the Flood Warning System, and the 2010 Working Group representatives to the FPCC. The “representatives” item will be added for further discussion to next month's meeting agenda.

**Mayor Cashell Briefing** – Director Duerr met with Reno Mayor Bob Cashell January 12<sup>th</sup> for a Flood Project briefing. Mayor Cashell replaces Councilwoman Sferrazza as one of the two City of Reno representatives to the FPCC. Sferrazza will continue with the FPCC as an alternate.

**Associated General Contractors (AGC)** - Director Duerr met with representatives of the AGC January 20<sup>th</sup> to update them on the project's progress and discuss areas where AGC can support the project. Naturally, the biggest focus was on protecting the community and putting people to work.

**Flood Warning System** – Flood Project staff Paul Urban and Danielle Henderson attended the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) sponsored one-day workshop on streamflow gaging in northern Nevada on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Attendance at the USGS meeting was in anticipation of a change in responsibility for the Flood Warning System program from Water Resources to the Flood Project as approved at the December FPCC meeting. The workshop featured a mixture of "formal" technical talks, discussions on funding issues, latest techniques in discharge measurement, upgrades to the real-time delivery systems, software advances,

120-day records, and the National Streamflow Information Program and its impacts on Nevada.

### **TRAction Projects**

**Home Elevation Program** - Jay Aldean and other Flood Project staff travelled to the Dry Creek area of Placer County (near Auburn California) January 11<sup>th</sup> to review another home elevation program similar to Tehama California. Photographs and program elements were presented along with discussion of a draft document regarding a financing program to assist homeowners in the Hidden Valley area to elevate their homes.

**Home Elevation Program** - The FPCC approved the elevation of homes as a TRAction project (early action project) in the Hidden Valley, Eastside Subdivision and nearby areas at their January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. A \$2 million dollar budget was approved to begin Phase 1 and raise approximately 20 homes in the area. This is the first step toward an overall project encompassing approximately 115 homes that are continually threatened by flooding from the Truckee River and Steamboat Creek. Next steps include the finalization of details about the plan and sign-off on a new ordinance implementing the program by the Washoe County Commission. Construction is expected to begin as early as summer 2010. The RGJ article is located at the following link:  
[http://truckeeflood.us/uploads/files/File/News%20Articles/Home\\_Elevation\\_RGJ\\_012210.pdf](http://truckeeflood.us/uploads/files/File/News%20Articles/Home_Elevation_RGJ_012210.pdf)

**Rosewood Lakes** – Rosewood Lakes’ homeowners visited with Flood Project Director Naomi Duerr for two hours on January 20th to review their flood concerns and learn the latest on the proposed home elevation program. According to the Homeowners Association, this was their largest turnout for any meeting, with standing room only. Homeowners learned that they may qualify for future phases of the home elevation program if the first floor of their home flooded in the 1997 or 2005 floods.

**TRAction Projects Update** - The Flood Project is currently completing the Mustang Ranch restoration, just announced the home elevation program (to start this summer), with the North Truckee Drain in design and planned for construction start in Fall 2010, and the Virginia Street Bridge to start design in the near future. Staff are currently developing a list of new TRAction projects (early start projects) for consideration in the July 2010 budget.

### **Improve Government Efficiency and Financial Stability**

**Joint Powers Authority (JPA)** - As previously announced, the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) approved the Key Provisions of the JPA for a new Flood Management Authority at their January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Naomi Duerr, Flood Project Director then updated the Sparks City Council on January 25<sup>th</sup>, the Board of County Commissioners on January 26<sup>th</sup>, and the Reno City Council, on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The Key Provisions for the Joint Powers Authority will hopefully be approved at the Joint government meeting on February 1. The Key Provisions document (available at [www.truckeeflood.us](http://www.truckeeflood.us)) outlines the nuances associated with the proposed formation of the JPA as the governing unit for the Flood Project. Some of the Key Provisions approved by the FPCC include moving from a 23-person board to a 6-member board with equal representation (2 each) from Reno, Sparks

and Washoe County, and a change from unanimous voting to majority rules, with a few items requiring approval by 75% of the body.

**FPCC Board Elections** - The FPCC elected Sparks City Councilman Ron Smith as their new Chair and Reno City Councilman Dan Gustin as Vice Chair for the year 2010. Mr. Smith replaces Washoe County Commissioner Bob Larkin in the Chair position and Mr. Gustin replaces Councilman Ron Smith in the Vice-Chair position. In addition, Washoe County Commissioner Dave Humke and the two newly elected FPCC officers will serve on the Flood Project Finance Sub-Committee.

### **Provide Excellent Public Services**

**Natural Resource Planner** - The Natural Resource Planner interviews are currently underway and the position is expected to be filled within the next 30 to 60 days. The position will enable the Flood Project to continue moving forward with the development of natural resource management and environmental monitoring objectives that are an integral part of many of the more than 50 features associated with the Project.

**The Flood Project on Facebook** - In mid-December, the Flood Project established a Facebook presence, where we are posting short bits of information about the FPCC and the project. In the intervening 6 weeks, 447 folks have become fans. You can join us on Facebook by logging on to our website and clicking the Facebook link midway down the left side of the home page. ([www.truckeeflood.us](http://www.truckeeflood.us))

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

No fiscal impact - for information only.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board acknowledge receipt of the Truckee River Flood Management Project Status Report for January 2010.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to acknowledge receipt of the Truckee River Flood Management Project Status Report for January 2010."