



# 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: March 23, 2010**

**DATE:** March 1, 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 February 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 February 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 January 2010 was presented to the Board of County Commissioners at the February 23, 2010 meeting.

### **BACKGROUND**

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

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

**Joint Powers Authority (JPA)** - Naomi Duerr, Flood Project Director presented the Key Provisions for the Joint Powers Authority at the Joint Meeting of Reno, Sparks and Washoe County on February 1st. The Key Provisions document was unanimously approved by all three jurisdictions. The document is available at [www.truckeefflood.us](http://www.truckeefflood.us) and 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.

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

**Flood Project to Emphasize Local Action but Continue Working with the Corps** – The Flood Project Coordinating Committee had significant discussion at their February 12<sup>th</sup> Retreat regarding the value of continuing to work with the Corps of Engineers on the Truckee River Flood Project. The decision was to continue doing as much locally as possible but to continue working with the Corps to obtain authorization and federal funding for the project. The current challenge continues to be a shortage in local funding for the project. Based on discussion at the Retreat, that challenge will be met head on by the members of the Flood Board as they search for ways to enhance revenues. Additionally, the Flood Project has requested additional federal funding from the Corps (\$20 Million) for construction of some project elements authorized in 1988.

**UNR Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** – At the February 12<sup>th</sup> Retreat, the much anticipated MOU with UNR was discussed. UNR reported internal meetings as well as meetings with the Flood Project are currently underway. The next steps include continued negotiations, with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Flood Project to be added to the negotiating team, and an update on the MOU to the University System’s Board of Regents at their June meeting.

**Builder’s Association** - Naomi Duerr, Flood Project Director met with the Builder’s Association Infrastructure and Planning Committee February 8<sup>th</sup> and presented an update on the Flood Project’s latest developments, particularly the newly proposed regulatory role for the Flood Management Authority (JPA) which is currently being set up. The new role would involve staff reviewing proposed commercial or residential developments utilizing a variety of tools such as the regional hydrologic model (currently being developed), to ensure that new developments will not harm the Flood Project’s infrastructure, reduce its level of flood protection, or increase flooding in surrounding areas. The committee reviews local land use, infrastructure and planning issues impacting development and construction and is currently part of a public / private sector task force reviewing and updating all building codes for the Northern Nevada localities.

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** – The TAC met February 5<sup>th</sup> and discussed a number of items including the Joint Powers Authority (JPA), Corps process and schedule, proposed budget and cash flow for FY 10-11, proposed revisions to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ “Principals and Guidelines” that govern administration and performance of Corp’ projects and possible formulation of comments to those proposed revisions.

**Working Group** – The Working Group met February 24<sup>th</sup> and discussed a number of items including the proposed budget and cash flow for FY 10-11, proposed revisions to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ “Principals and Guidelines” that govern administration and performance of Corp’ projects and possible formulation of comments to those proposed revisions. In addition, representatives to the FPCC were discussed for 2010 with no changes resulting from the discussion.

### **TRAction Projects**

**Home Elevation** - Jay Aldean, Flood Project Deputy Director met with the Builder’s Association of Northern Nevada (BANN) on the Home Elevation program on February

10th. The draft Home Elevation program was presented for vetting with feedback solicited on potential changes or additions going forward. These comments and suggestions were recorded for continued discussion and potential inclusion in the final Home Elevation Program now expected to be implemented in late spring 2010.

**Other TRAction Projects** currently underway include the design of the Sparks North Truckee Drain, the design of the Virginia Street Bridge replacement, and construction of the Lower Mustang Restoration Project.

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

**Appropriations** - The Flood Project has finalized appropriation requests to the federal delegation for action in Fiscal Year 10/11 which starts October 1<sup>st</sup>. Letters of support from all Flood Project partners accompanied those requests. The appropriation request is for \$10 million in general investigations funding to complete planning and design of authorized projects, and \$20 million for construction of projects authorized in 1988.

**Flood Project Budget FY 10-11** – At the February 12<sup>th</sup> Retreat, the FPCC approved the preliminary Capital Infrastructure Plan for the FY 10-11 Flood Project budget which begins July 2010. The emphasis for this discussion was to provide as much flood protection, as soon as possible, and in doing so, to stimulate the economy with new jobs. The discussion also centered on the need for additional revenue sources, such as fees for flood benefits, in order to continue the momentum established with the Flood Project's first four construction projects. Projects proposed for next year include additional funds for home elevations, flood protection at Rainbow Bend, a study of the feasibility of constructing a levee at Wadsworth, and design of the Tracy Pond Restoration Project. Specifics on the proposed budget and the Project's cash flow projections is available at:

<http://truckeeflood.us/uploads/meetings/1056724903-Agenda%20Book%20Retreat%202-12-10.pdf>

### **Provide Excellent Public Services**

**ASCE AWARD** - The Flood Project's TRAction Project for the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (levee/floodwall) was awarded the region's highest honor "Outstanding Achievement in Civil Engineering" for the Environment by the local chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) February 2nd. Kudos go to all the partners on the project, most especially Washoe County Public Works for stepping up to manage the project in the person of Greg Belancio, PE. Honors also went to Eric Scheetz, P.E., Paul Urban, P.E., and Jay Aldean, P.E., all Flood Project staff, for their varied contributions, and to the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony team of Chairman Arlen Melendez, Scott Nebesky and Steve Moran.

In addition, Eric Scheetz, P.E., our youngest engineer, was selected as the ASCE "Young Engineer of the Year" for all his contributions to the community.

**Downtown Improvement Association (DIA)** - Danielle Henderson, Natural Resource Manager gave a presentation to the DIA on the Flood Project Recreation Plan February 4<sup>th</sup>. This item was presented at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting for the DIA and

provided an opportunity for that group to learn more about the Downtown “reach” of the Project and the positive benefits expected for the area.

**Recent News Articles** – Two news articles and an editorial about the Truckee River Flood Project appeared in local newspapers in February. The articles focused on the problems recently identified with the hydraulic model being used to calculate floodplains and to size the project (i.e. determine the level of flood protection that would be cost shared by the Corps.) The articles can be found at [http://truckeeflood.us/269/newspaperwritten\\_articles.html](http://truckeeflood.us/269/newspaperwritten_articles.html)

**Flood Awareness** – Paul Urban, Flood Project Manager and Aaron Kenneston, Washoe County Emergency Manager recorded a radio Public Service Program at Lotus Radio KDOT 104.5. February 10<sup>th</sup>. The ½ hour discussion format with Chuck Short included Flood Awareness and Flood Preparedness information. The air date and time was February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am with random airings expected on various other Lotus stations (KHIT-1450AM, KOZZ-105.7, KPLY-630AM) the following week.

In addition, Jay Aldean, Deputy Director of the Flood Project and Christina Conti of the Washoe County Emergency Operations Center recorded a Flood Awareness, Flood Preparedness interview February 11th at Americom Radio with Connie Wray of "ALICE" radio. The 1/2 hour program aired Sunday, February 14th at 6am on all the Americom radio stations (KBZZ-1270AM, KJFK-1230AM, KODS-103.7, KRNO-106.9, KWNZ-93.7, KZTQ-97.3, KLCA-96.5).

### **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 February 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 February 2010.”