



FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: October 10, 2008

DATE: September 30, 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 September 2008

SUMMARY

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

PREVIOUS ACTION

The most recent status report was presented to the FPCC at their September 12, 2008 meeting.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Corps Activities

Section 113 Credit - The Corps reported that the Section 113 (ecosystem restoration) cost-share credit application for the 102 Ranch Restoration Project **has been approved**. Section 113 gets its name from the section of law Senator Reid obtained to support the flood project. Nowhere else in the country is credit allowed for early ecosystem restoration. Ecosystem restoration involves construction of river channel meanders, riffles, point bars and wetlands; restoration of abandoned gravel pits; and revegetation of riparian and upland areas with native plant species.

Project Manager Change - Naomi Duerr and Mimi Fujii-Strickler participated in the interview process of a new Project Manager for the Flood Project on September 5th at Corps headquarters in Sacramento. Chan Modini, the current Corps Project Manager, has been promoted to a new position with the Corps' "Hydraulic Engineering Center" in Davis CA. and will be leaving the Flood Project in October. Roger Henderson has been selected as the Corps' new Project Manager. He will officially start in October, but is currently overlapping with Chan.

TRAction Projects

Recreation Plan - The Reno City Council approved adding the Living River Recreation Plan-Mill Street to McCarran as a TRAction Project at their September 24th meeting. Approval of the project will go the FPCC for their consideration in the near future.

Lockwood Restoration –The Nature Conservancy is managing restoration of Lockwood for the Flood Project partners. Restoration got underway in September with clearing of the site. An official groundbreaking is planned for October with a date still to be determined.

Storey County - Paul Urban and Eric Scheetz continued 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 finalized.

Local Sponsors/Collaborative Efforts

Homeless Shelter - At the September 12th Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) meeting, the FPCC voted to approve a lease with the city of Reno to provide an emergency overflow homeless shelter at one of the Flood Project buildings on Edison Way. For the last two years, the Truckee River Flood Project allowed Washoe County to utilize the properties at 85 N. Edison Way to provide temporary overflow shelter for homeless persons during the cold winter months.

Flood Storage Mitigation Resolution - Flood storage mitigation was discussed in depth at the September FPCC meeting. The Board requested that staff bring back a final proposed resolution for Critical Flood Zone #1 at the October FPCC meeting, complete with any proposed exceptions by the various jurisdictions. To this end, Flood Project and partner staff met to refine the proposed resolution and accompanying maps. A final proposed resolution has been posted to the Flood Project website at www.truckeeflood.us and will be recommended for approval at the October FPCC meeting.

Real Estate Project Development Team meeting - A meeting of the Flood Project real estate team was held after the 102 Ranch Groundbreaking. The 15-member Corps and local sponsor team discussed coordination regarding the early acquisition process and upcoming real estate tasks.

Regional Hydrologic Model - Review of the RFQ responses for the regional hydrologic model was completed with three firms selected to return and interview with staff from Reno, Sparks, Washoe County, and the Flood Project. A final selection of Manhard Engineering was made in September. Next steps include negotiations with Manhard to define a detailed scope of work, with the actual bid award expected in December. The model is essential a tool to determine projected impacts on the floodplain due to land use changes as small as 5 to 10 acres.

Airport Authority - Corps and Flood Project Staff met with the Airport Authority on September 22nd to discuss land use restrictions and design criteria in runway hazard zones.

Working Group - At the September 24th Working Group meeting, Garth Oskol from the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) provided an update on alignments for the Southeast Connector that were recommended to the RTC Board on September 19th. Discussion focused on mitigation of road impACTS, Steamboat Creek pollutants, cost projections and next steps. The Flood Storage Mitigation Resolution was discussed and will be agendized for the October FPCC Board

meeting. Kerri Williams reported that the expected “final” visioning meeting for the Reno Downtown Bridges would be October 21st at McKinley Arts Center.

TAC - At the September 29th meeting the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) discussion focused primarily on the October FPCC Board Retreat, including the agenda and supporting documents.

Funding

Flood Funding Study - FCS and CH2MHill updated the Finance Subcommittee at their September 9th meeting. and the next steps involve staff review of the final report chapters and tasks.

Land Acquisition/Land Management

Relocation Consultant Contracts – At their September 9th meeting, the Board of County Commissioners approved and authorized the Chairman to execute three “on-call, as-needed” Agreements for Relocation Assistance Services. An open purchase order will be entered into with each of the vendors, not to exceed \$300,000. (Maximum budget for all three contracts is \$300,000). A preliminary Flood Project Tenant Relocation Budget of \$2.7 million was approved by the Flood Project Coordinating Committee on January 11, 2008. This budget includes funds to hire a relocation specialist firm, as well as to effectuate the actual relocation of each of the affected tenants. The necessary funds are currently available in the appropriate flood project accounts. The FPCC approved the relocation consultant contracts at the August 8th meeting.

Outreach

102 Ranch Groundbreaking – The Flood Project’s major event of the year, the 102 Ranch Groundbreaking, took place Thursday, September 18th at the 102 Ranch about 15 miles from Reno/Sparks east along the Truckee River. Over 200 attendees enjoyed the day’s events, with more than 85 participating in the mini-tour on the way to the event. In addition to the classic “breaking of the ground”, the annual Flood Project “Partners” award was awarded to the Nature Conservancy for their significant work in planning and initiating restoration of two sites -102 Ranch and Lockwood. Local, state, and federal officials, including representatives of Nevada’s Legislature which is helping to fund the construction, also attended along with media from all three local television stations and print media from Washoe and Storey Counties.

TROA - Director Duerr attended the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) Signing September 6th at Wingfield Park. More than 20 years in the making, this historic pact signaled a new course for the future use of the waters of the Truckee River. The agreement is designed to permanently replace an antiquated and inflexible water management system in favor of a more flexible system of storage and water usage from Truckee River reservoirs, better protecting the Reno-Sparks area from drought and providing flows for fish spawning. Joining Senator Reid in signing the agreement were Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, U.S. Assistant Attorney General Ronald Tenpas, Washoe County Commissioner Robert Larkin, and other Nevada and California officials.

Balloon Races -The Truckee River Flood Project (TRFP) staffed a booth at the Balloon Races in early September. The booth was produced in partnership with Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Washoe County Public Works and the University of Nevada-Reno’s student chapter of the

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Emphasis for the Flood Project was restoration projects and the overall project goals.

Floodplain Management Association (FMA) - Staff member Paul Urban presented a seminar on hydrologic tools for arid areas and Danielle Henderson presented a seminar on river restoration at the annual FMA Conference in early September in San Diego.

Staff/Personnel Update

Deputy Director - Jay Aldean, P.E., of HDR Engineering has accepted the position of Deputy Director for the Flood Project. His position with HDR as Water Resources Business Class Leader included managing a water resources staff of six individuals. As Water Resources Business Class Leader, his job was to insure that all projects were staffed, managed and executed to the highest level of professionalism. He also oversaw all marketing efforts. Previous experience included similar responsibilities with MACTEC and CH2MHILL. Jay's start date is October 6th.

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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