



FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: February 13, 2009

DATE: February 3, 2009
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 January 2009

SUMMARY

A status report on the activities related to the Truckee River Flood Management Project for the month of January 2009 is provided herein.

PREVIOUS ACTION

The most recent status report for January 2009 was presented to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee at their January 21, 2009 meeting.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Corps Activities

Economic Stimulus Package - The Sacramento District along with Flood Project staff and their lobbyist (Mia O'Connell) continue to work closely on identifying various approaches that may be used to help the project obtain construction funding from the economic stimulus package expected early this year. As explained in the last Corps report to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC), several challenges currently exist for the Truckee River Project.

Schedule Update - During the summer of 2008, a new project schedule was developed. The previous schedule had lacked significant detail for individual project tasks and subtasks, and accordingly became increasingly difficult for use as a tracking tool for project management. The Corps continues to believe that the schedule will experience a significant slip, with the exact amount still unknown. Some of the causes of the slip were noted in last month's Corps report to the FPCC.

Fiscal Issues

Flood Funding Study – Governance and Rates - The Flood Funding Study is nearing a key milestone. Additional revenues must be developed if the flood project construction phase is to swing into high gear. In furtherance of this goal, Director Duerr presented the options developed by the study team to address this issue at the January 14th Reno City Council Meeting, the January 20th BCC meeting, and the January 21st Flood Project Coordinating Committee meeting. The options were also discussed at the January 26th Sparks City Council meeting. All of the elected bodies agreed with the Finance Subcommittee's decision to direct staff to focus on development of a Joint Powers Authority or a Regional Flood Control District. A joint meeting of all jurisdictions has been scheduled for February 9th to make a decision as to which model or models to pursue. The next step will be to work with the Nevada Legislature this session to amend state statutes to enable the implementation of the selected governance model.

FEMA - Senior Flood Project staff attended a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) grant meeting at the Nevada Division of Water Resources in Carson City January 13th. The meeting was a continuing effort by the Flood Project to study the feasibility of raising homes in the Hidden Valley area including possible funds that may be available for the project through FEMA's grant funding program.

Economic Stimulus Bill - Director Duerr submitted a list of "ready-to-go" projects for consideration should an economic stimulus bill be approved which includes infrastructure projects. The list was provided to Senator Reid's Office, Washington D.C. lobbyist Mia O'Connell, and the Nevada Association of Counties. The list was amended to include the North Truckee Drain at the request of Sparks representatives at the 1-21-09 FPCC meeting. The total request is currently approximately \$340 million. The stimulus bill is expected to contain \$650 - \$850 billion of initiatives which Congress may act on in February. Details of the stimulus package and criteria for eligibility are still being developed and should be available online in the near future. The Flood Project expects to pursue funds through the Nevada Department of Transportation and the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service, as well as through the Corps.

TRAction Projects

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) Groundbreaking - The Flood Project hosted a successful groundbreaking event on January 29, 2009 at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony/Walmart site. The event drew a crowd of over 120 elected officials, dignitaries and residents along with local agency and environmental groups. The eloquent entertainment featured a song performed in the Paiute language along with performance by a Native American drum group.

Of special note, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Chairman Melendez honored FPCC Chair Larkin and Flood Project Director Duerr with a gift of individually designed Native American Pendleton blankets at the event.

Local Sponsors/Collaborative Efforts

Working Group - The January Working Group meeting included an overview of the Governance Models. Director Duerr explained which of the models was desired by each agency, the bonding requirements, liability, land ownership, and operation and maintenance issues. Director Duerr also reviewed the list of "ready to go" flood projects for possible funding consideration through the Economic Stimulus Bill. Paul Urban, Project Manager, discussed the Huffaker Dam and Detention

Area explaining that the detention area does not make a significant difference to Huffaker outflows or Vista Narrows outflows for the 117-yr storm. Dropping the Huffaker detention area from the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP), would save the Flood Project approximately \$300 million in overall project costs. After much discussion, the Working Group was in agreement with dropping the Huffaker detention area from the LPP plan. Additional comments are still being sought from the group and will be brought back to the March meeting.

January 6 Technical Advisory Meeting (TAC) - The January 6 TAC meeting included discussion regarding the Governance Models along with the governing criteria for each one. There was further discussion regarding how to approach the “parallel track”/value engineering study for the Flood Project. Deputy Director, Jay Aldean and Project Manager, Paul Urban brought to the group’s attention a possible concern that such a study conducted at this point in time could jeopardize the schedule for the General Re-evaluation Report (GRR) and authorization process currently scheduled for Fall 2010. An alternative approach was presented to the group to incorporate the cost evaluation study into a TRAction project for the Living River Parkway.

FPCC Direction to TAC - At the January 21st meeting, the FPCC gave direction to Flood Project staff to formalize the TAC as reporting to the FPCC, thereby creating the same rules and regulations that governs all public meetings.

January 30 Technical Advisory Committee - The TAC meeting included discussion of changing the membership of the TAC, and adopting new policies and procedures. The TAC decided to recommend to the FPCC reduction of the number of voting members for Reno, Sparks and Washoe County from four to three each, addition of two non-voting members (Washoe County Water Resources and UNR), and dropping a perceived requirement to formally designate alternates. The TAC also adopted new policies and procedures. Later in the meeting the TAC heard a brief presentation by Paul Urban recommending dropping Huffaker Dam and Detention Area from the Locally Preferred Plan, but took no action.

Regional Hydraulic Model - At the January 21st meeting, the FPCC approved and will forward to the Board of County Commissioners for consent, a contract with Manhard Engineering for the Phase 1 work of the Regional Hydrologic Model, in an amount not-to-exceed \$195,000. The first phase includes analysis of various regional hydrologic model approaches and techniques with the ultimate goal of developing a Regional Hydrologic Model for the Truckee River Watershed. During Phase I, various model options would be tested on a much smaller watershed, the Sun Valley watershed, for which highly reliable data is available as a calibration tool. The results of the first phase effort would then be applied to the entire Truckee River watershed in a later phase of the project.

Land Acquisition/Land Management

Property Management – On January 14, Flood Project Supervisor Mimi Fujii-Strickler, along with the property managers and Facilities Management staff, inspected all Edison Way properties owned by the Flood Project. The purpose of the inspection was to assess the condition of the properties in preparation for future discussions about disposition of the property and relocation of tenants.

Bristlecone Lease Amendment - At the January 21st meeting, the FPCC considered and approved a lease amendment that would revise the terms of the Flood Project property currently leased to Bristlecone Family Resources at 1725 S. McCarran Blvd. The approved amended month-to-month lease would include a monthly rent amount through the year

2009 of \$1500 per month plus the cost of operations and maintenance. This lease amendment with revised terms will be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for their consent.

Outreach

ASA Woodley - Assistant Secretary of the Army J.P. Woodley will visit the flood project on February 13. Currently a Breakfast and short bus tour are planned for the morning, followed by an afternoon FPCC meeting.

Lobbying Services - At the January 21st meeting, the FPCC approved an agreement with Marcus Faust, P.C. for congressional and federal lobbying services in an annual amount not to exceed \$51, 527.40. The agreement was forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for their consent.

Media - The 102 Ranch and Lockwood Restoration Projects were front and center in the Reno Gazette Journal January 5th thanks to reporter Jeff Delong. These TRAction projects broke ground in September and October, respectively, and the article featured pictures and information about the progress that has been made to date. Please visit our website at www.truckeeflood.us and check out the newsroom if you missed it.

The RSIC Groundbreaking Event brought out all local television stations (2, 4 and 8).The interviews and “live shots” of the event received playing time from the stations that evening and into the next morning’s newscast. This also included a “live” interview on the Dunbar Report by Director Duerr that same evening. Print coverage came from the Sparks Tribune and the Reno Gazette Journal (RGJ) the day before the event. This early coverage had the added benefit of increasing public awareness and attendance at the event. RGJ photographer Marilyn Newton photographed the Native American drum group and inserted a photo the day after the event. Public Service Announcements were also sent to all radio stations.

Staff/Personnel Update

FPCC Board Elections - At the January 21st meeting, the FPCC Board unanimously approved the re-appointment of Robert Larkin to the Chair position and the new appointment of Ron Smith to the Vice-Chair position. The positions are selected annually.

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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