



FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 10, 2009

DATE: March 31, 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 March 2009

SUMMARY

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

PREVIOUS ACTION

The most recent status report for February 2009 was presented to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee at their March 13, 2009 meeting.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Legislative Issues

Assembly Bill 54 (AB 54) - Director Duerr testified at the Legislature Tuesday, March 3rd along with Rosemary Menard, Washoe County Water Resources Director. Hidden Valley homeowners accompanied Ms. Duerr in support of the bill. Questions by the Government Affairs Committee were numerous. The committee recommended a number of amendments and staff drafted and submitted them. A work session has been tentatively set for Wednesday, April 8. A copy of Flood Project's proposed amendments to AB 54 is located on the website at www.truckeeflood.us

Senate Bill 175 (SB 175) – SB 175 passed unanimously March 25th in the Senate Government Affairs Committee and has been referred to the Assembly Government Affairs Committee. As a reminder, this is “An act relating to floods; authorizing a board of county commissioners to acquire, improve, equip, operate and maintain a flood management project in certain counties; authorizing any revenues derived from such a flood management project to be pledged for the payment of certain bonds; authorizing the governing body of a municipality in certain counties to acquire, improve, equip, operate and maintain a flood management project under certain circumstances; revising provisions governing the acquisition of bonds issued by a flood management authority; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.” Complete information on SB 175 is available at www.truckeeflood.us

Fiscal Issues

Property Management - Flood Project staff members Eric Scheetz and Danielle Henderson performed a comprehensive site inspection of the Flood Project property located on the corner of Mill and McCarran March 4th. The inspection was conducted in anticipation of the renewal of the maintenance agreement for this property.

Huffaker Project Element - Flood Project Manager, Paul Urban updated the March 25th Working Group on the removal of the Huffaker Detention facility from the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP). He noted that the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) had approved the removal of the structural elements and further directed Flood Project staff to evaluate portions of the footprint that should be retained as recreation/open space for flood mitigation storage. Additionally, the FPCC directed that a white paper addressing the modeling of flood events with and without the detention facility and roadway inundation be developed and presented to them at a future meeting.

Question 1 - The BCC moved to approve the request to reassign a portion of State Question 1 funds from the Steamboat Creek Restoration Project to Truckee River Enhancements in the amount of \$ 1,500,000. The Truckee River Enhancement project list includes Flood Project restoration projects at the Tracy Power Plant and Ferretto Ranch.

Flood Project FY 2009/2010 Budget - Director Duerr provided a preliminary budget presentation to the TAC. Vice-Chair St. John indicated that he would like to explore the use of government staff to fulfill some of the services planned to be outsourced, and Assistant City Manager Mary Hill expressed interest in creating positions in the flood project to complete needed tasks with the opportunity to possibly transition in personnel facing a layoff situation.

TRAction Projects

Lower Mustang Restoration TRAction Project - Natural Resources Manager, Danielle Henderson provided an overview to the March TAC and Working Group on the Lower Mustang Restoration TRAction project. The Nature Conservancy will construct the project, funding it in part with the remaining funds from AB-5 grant authorized by the Nevada 2007 Legislature. Ms. Henderson also reported that none of the Flood Project's 1/8 cent sales tax will be used to construct the restoration project. The project is expected to start this summer.

Virginia Street Bridge TRAction Project - Flood Project staff attended a public information meeting held March 24th at the McKinley Arts and Culture Center regarding the proposed Virginia Street Bridge TRAction project. The meeting was hosted by the City of Reno in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration for the purpose of gathering public comments concerning the proposed project as part of the environmental documentation process. The comment period ends April 10, 2009, with Kerri Lanza, PE, and Senior Civil Engineer for the City of Reno acting as the liaison on the project. Kerri also passed this information on to the March Working Group.

Lockwood TRAction Project – The Nature Conservancy has started re-vegetation and work on the trailhead at the Lockwood TRAction project. Construction crews are placing finely crushed rock on the newly constructed lower loop trail and expect to complete the trail by the end of March. Native plant materials (cottonwood, willow, buffalo berry, wild rose) continue to be planted. The upper overlook loop trail has been narrowed to 3-4 feet wide and the sides laid back. Bench and picnic table locations, along with signage and kiosk placement have been confirmed as of March 26th.

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Traction Project Update - As reported in the Reno Gazette Journal February 27th, historical buried treasure was found at the site that turned out to be from the Reno City Hall building demolished in 1963. The Nevada Historical Society identified the “treasure” as part of the original City Hall sign and will eventually display this unique piece of Reno history. The complete news article is located in the flood project “newsroom” at www.truckeeeflood.us. Work on the concrete floodwall continues with the pouring of the “sequoia sand” colored concrete. The earthen levee part of the project is underway as well.

Rainbow Bend -The Corps has hired HDR Engineering to expedite progress on the evaluation of the hydraulics for the potential TRAction project at Rainbow Bend. Flood Project staff, the Corps and HDR Engineering met March 24th to kick-off discussions about the project.

Outreach

Digital Billboard Sign - A 14' x 48' digital Clear Channel billboard sign has been installed on the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) site. The Flood Project worked with Scott Nebesky (RSIC) and Clear Channel to produce four signs (known as “flips”) as a public service announcement (PSA) letting the public know the unique, moneysaving and job creating benefits of the project. These went live on March 27th and can be viewed on www.truckeeeflood.us

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Program - The City of Reno has produced a documentary to run on the local City of Reno channel (Reno13) that highlights the “treasure” found on the RSIC site. It features floodwall and levee construction information narrated by Eric Scheetz, Flood Project Engineer and historical information about the City of Reno narrated by Sharon Spangler, Television Production Manager for the City of Reno.

Website - Flood Project Staff attended a meeting with Kennedy Jenks on website innovations in preparation for public comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The current Flood Project content management system (cms) will be unable to handle the volumes of information and tracking when the EIS is posted for public comment. Presentations by other providers are expected in the future.

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.