



## FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE: April 9, 2010**

**DATE:** March 29, 2010  
**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 2010

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### **SUMMARY**

A status report on the activities related to the Truckee River Flood Management Project for the month of March 2010 is provided herein.

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

The most recent status report for January and February 2010 was presented to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee at their March 12, 2010 meeting.

### **MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

#### **Tours**

**Corps Tour** – Sacramento U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' staff including Kris Mullins, the new Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management, was in Reno on March 19<sup>th</sup> to get a first-hand look at the Flood Project. Kris has 13 years experience with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and comes from the Little Rock District in Arkansas, where she served the last two years as the Chief of the Project Management Branch, and the Assistant Chief of Programs. The Sacramento Corps members enjoyed a six-hour bus tour of the Flood Project along with a briefing of the Project.

**River Partners Tour** – Danielle Henderson and Melissa Faigeles conducted a brief tour of the Flood Project for members of River Partners on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The mission of River Partners is to create wildlife habitat for the benefit of people and the environment. The organization protects the environment by implementing large scale restoration along streams and rivers in California's Central Valley, and is considering opportunities to assist with restoration efforts in the Truckee Meadows. An afternoon briefing included the Nature Conservancy to discuss possible future opportunities with Flood Project Restoration projects.

**Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) Civil Works Visit and Tour** – Mark your calendars! Jo-Ellen Darcy, ASA, is tentatively scheduled to visit our area May 26<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy, the

Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), establishes policy direction and provides supervision of the Department of the Army functions relating to all aspects of the U.S Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works program. She was appointed August 11, 2009 by President Barack Obama. Planning is underway for a tour of the Flood Project and a "meet and greet" with interested stakeholders. More information will be forthcoming as plans are confirmed.

### **TRAction Projects and Technical Activities**

**Virginia Street Bridge Design** – Interviews of potential contractors to design the new Virginia Street Bridge were held on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The 100+ year old Virginia Street Bridge is scheduled to be replaced with an elevated bridge as part of the Flood Project's early start TRAction projects. The design of the project will be funded by the 1/8 cent sales tax for flood control. Additional funds for actual construction of the bridge have been requested from the Corps of Engineers. Selection of a design consultant should be made in the near future.

**Hydrologic Model Training** – Flood Project Staff spent two days, March 29-30, in an initial training by Manhard Consulting to understand the hydrologic model known as GSSHA (pronounced "Geisha"). GSSHA is under consideration for selection as the model platform on which to develop the regional hydrologic model. Also in attendance at the training were representatives from the local jurisdictions and members of the Corps Sacramento office.

**Corps Visit** – Jay Aldean, Deputy Director and Paul Urban, Project Manager travelled to the Sacramento Corps offices March 16<sup>th</sup> to meet with Corps personnel and consultants working on the General Reevaluation Report (GRR) to discuss project goals, deliverables, timelines, etc.

**Flood Warning System** –The official transfer of the Flood Warning System from the County Water Resources Department to the Flood Project has begun. Ed Evans, the primary employee associated with the program, began work with the flood project two weeks ago. The Flood Project's funding and operational responsibilities for the system are expected to start July 1, 2010. The program includes over 50 meteorological field sites that provide data on rainfall, stream flow, and the like. This data is crucial in the determination of the timing and strength of extreme weather events in the Truckee Meadows. In addition, this information initiates the activation of the regional Flood Threat Detection Plan.

### **Finances**

**Budget** – The Flood Project Coordinating Committee approved the Flood Project's FY 10-11 budget as presented at the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Highlights include planned TRAction Project construction for the Rainbow Bend Raised Walkway and home elevation; design of the Virginia Street Bridge, North Truckee Drain, Tracy Pond Restoration, and the Living River Parkway; and a feasibility analysis of a levee at Wadsworth. The budget will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Meetings**

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** – The TAC met March 26<sup>th</sup> and discussed a variety of topics including election of officers with Dan St. John, Public Works Director for Washoe County and Wayne Seidel, Public Works Director for Sparks retaining their respective positions as Chair and Vice-Chair. Other topics included an update on the Corps modeling and project schedule and accomplishments, goals and performance measures for the FY 09/10 along with activities associated with the following FY 10/11.

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

**Great Truckee Meadows Community Clean-Up** – The Flood Project is partnering with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB) for the the 2010 Great Truckee Meadow Community Clean-up event on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Melissa Faigeles, Natural Resource Planner is heading up this worthwhile effort for the Flood Project and will be working at the Bristlecone property located at 101 S. McCarran Blvd. Volunteers will spend the morning cleaning up area open spaces and removing noxious weeds around the Truckee River. Not only is the cleanup tons of fun, but is sure to bring you closer to your friends, family and community! There are clean-up locations throughout the Truckee Meadows and volunteers can find the one closest to them and sign up at <http://www.ktmb.org/gtmccu.htm> (on the KTMB website). Hope to see you there!

### **Outreach**

**Media Day at the Excel Building** – The Excel Building, owned by the Flood Project and located in the center of the future Living River Parkway, was the site of a Media Day for the City of Reno Police Department March 30<sup>th</sup>. Media witnessed training exercises and a myriad of other exciting “visuals” associated with the Reno Police Department. The Flood Project has made the Excel building available for use by law enforcement agencies in the area, and it has come to be in almost constant use as a training facility.

**Building and Construction Trade Council** – Naomi Duerr and Jay Aldean met with members of the Building and Construction Trade Council for an overview of the Flood Project on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was in preparation for a Building and Trade Council trip to Washington D.C. on April 16<sup>th</sup> to lobby Congress for support to create more jobs in the Truckee Meadows.

**Reno Building Enterprise Fund Advisory Committee** – On March 23, Naomi Duerr and Jay Aldean provided an update to the City of Reno’s Building Enterprise Fund Advisory Committee on the Flood Project’s proposed Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and potential role in reviewing development proposals for possible impacts on the flood project and flooding in general. The Committee provides the City of Reno with expertise and counsel from the building industry on the policies and management of the enterprise fund. Membership consists of seven (7) members nominated by the Reno community building industry, representing a cross-section of the industry including residential, commercial, and industrial.

**Hidden Valley Homeowner’s Meeting** – Naomi Duerr, Director, and Jay Aldean, Deputy Director, presented the latest information on the Hidden Valley Home Elevation Program to the Homeowner’s Association on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 40 homeowners attended, many of whom were interested in signing up for the Home Elevation program once the program is approved by the Board of County Commissioners, currently expected in late April.

### **Employee News**

**Hydrogeologist Ed Evans Joins the Flood Project** – Ed Evans, a 20+year Washoe County employee moved over to the Flood Project from the Department of Water Resources on March 15. Ed’s role will be to continue to manage, maintain, and improve the 50+ gage Flood Warning System, and to assist with development of the Flood Project’s new restoration monitoring program. The Flood Warning system is being transferred to the Flood Project to consolidate flood planning and management activities in the flood project, and to shift funding for the program to the 1/8 cent sales tax, relieving Washoe County’s general fund and the Reno and Sparks’ sewer budgets from this cost. In addition to the warning system, Ed has been responsible for surface water monitoring programs, groundwater quantity and quality monitoring programs, locating new groundwater supplies, and managing turn-key capital projects. Ed has a degree in Geology from UNR.

**Natural Resource Planner** – Melissa Faigeles joined the Flood Project as a Natural Resource Planner on March 15<sup>th</sup>. This much needed position will assist Danielle Henderson, Natural Resource Manager, with the development of natural resource strategies, oversight of restoration TRAction Projects, and assistance with the Flood Project's new restoration monitoring program. Melissa earned her bachelor's degree in ecology and evolution at the University of Pittsburgh and comes to the Flood Project from the California Tahoe Conservancy where she worked on large scale restoration projects in the Tahoe Basin. Prior to that, Melissa's work with the Nature Conservancy in Central Oregon helped her become well-acquainted with the high desert environment in our area.

**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.