



FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 14, 2010

DATE: April 29, 2010
TO: Flood Project Coordinating Committee Members
FROM: Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Management Project, 850-7420
nduerr@washoecounty.us
SUBJECT: Accept Truckee River Flood Management Project Status Report for April 2010

SUMMARY

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

PREVIOUS ACTION

The most recent status report for March 2010 was presented to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee at their April 9, 2010 meeting.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

TRAction Projects and Technical Activities



American Public Works Association (APWA) Award – The recently completed Reno/Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) Flood Wall Levee TRAction Project (pictured at left) was selected as the **2010 Project of the Year** for the Environment on April 29th in southern Nevada. The award was based on service to the public, community need, intricacy of design, aesthetic value, difficulty of construction, cost growth and time growth as % of the original contract and complexity of financial background. Earlier this year, the RSIC Levee/Floodwall project received the 2010 “**Outstanding Achievement in Civil Engineering-Environmental**” Award

from the Truckee Meadows Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers. This annual award recognizes the success of projects meeting the demands of society while supporting the environment.

Corps Meeting – Flood Project staff Paul Urban, Danielle Henderson and Melissa Faigeles travelled to Sacramento to meet with Corps staff on April 6th regarding Fish Passage, the Recreation Plan and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Flood Project. Face-to-face meetings help facilitate consistent communications with Project partners. Both the fish passage plan and recreation plans are still being finalized by the Corps.

Virginia Street Bridge Design – The interviews of potential contractors to design the new Virginia Street Bridge resulted in the selection of Jacobs. 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.

Home Elevation Media – On April 16th, 9-10am, Dan Erwine of KUNR (88.7 FM) interviewed Jay Aldean, PE, Deputy Director and Eric Scheetz, PE, about the proposed Home Elevation Program on the Nevada Newsline program. A variety of listeners called in to pose questions about the proposed program.

Home Elevation – The first reading of the Hidden Valley/Eastside Subdivision Home Elevation program ordinance was heard at the April 27th Board of County Commissioners' meeting. Flood Project Director Naomi Duerr called this a real "win-win" for the public. "We have flood protection for homeowners being implemented ahead of the Corps project and in a way which will save significant public dollars as compared to traditional solutions, and in the process we will put some 130 professionals back to work in the very near future." The second reading and possible adoption of this ordinance is currently set for May 25, 2010. Read the full version of the press release on the Flood Project website at: http://truckeeflood.us/166/hidden_valley_traction_project.html



102 Ranch Update – The 102 Ranch Restoration project is blooming! Many miles of temporary irrigation (shown in photo at left) have been laid to bring water to the newly planted riparian vegetation. Vegetation includes thousands of willow poles harvested from other willows planted by volunteers and staff alike. The project to restore the naturally functioning river system is nearly complete.



Mustang Ranch Update – Earthwork at this restoration site is completed with the bulk of the planting scheduled to begin this fall. The new meandering river channel (shown under construction at left) has alternating point bars that create a riffle pool sequence. More than 13 acres of wetland habitat will be constructed as this project is completed.

Finances

Budget Presentation – Naomi Duerr, Flood Project Director, presented the Flood Project budget to the Board of County Commissioners on April 5. A highlight of the presentation included transferring funding and management of the regional Flood Warning System to the Flood Project from the County Department of Water Resources, resulting in \$270,000 in savings to Washoe County, Sparks and Reno (\$90,000 each). The transition is occurring now (See more below.) The Flood Project also plans to pick up their overhead costs going forward, saving the County an additional \$275,000.

Local Sponsors/Collaborative Efforts

Flood Warning System – The official transfer of the Flood Warning System to the Flood Project has begun. Ed Evans, the primary employee associated with the program, began work with the Flood Project March 15th. The Flood Project's formal funding and operational responsibilities for the system are expected to start July 1, 2010. The program includes over 50 meteorological field sites which provide data on rainfall, stream flow, and other data. 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.

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 on March 30. 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.

Outreach

JPA Outreach – Naomi Duerr, Director, Jay Aldean, Deputy Director and Paul Urban, Project Manager met with a number of builders, contractors and consultants at Pavers Plus on April 9th regarding the proposal for Flood Project staff to review proposed developments for their potential impact to flood flows. This first in a series of two meetings focused on river hydrology, the impact of water inflows from California (California contributes about 60% of the water flowing into Nevada during a 100- year flood, not 95%+ as is commonly believed), the need for the Flood Project and how it is expected to benefit our region. The next meeting will focus on staff review of proposed projects, the JPA and fees. Additionally meetings, similar in scope to this one, are being planned now. If your group is interested contact the flood project at 850-7429.

University of Florida Lecture – A 17-year tradition continued on April 14th with Naomi Duerr, Flood Project Director, presenting a lecture to University of Florida (UF) graduate students on Nevada Water Policy and the Truckee River Flood Project. This year's lecture physically took place at the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center located on the University of Nevada, Reno campus and was broadcast electronically to UF and made available to numerous students in UF's on-line master's program in water resources.

Truckee River Seminar – Naomi Duerr was a presenter at the Truckee River Tour sponsored by the Nevada Water Resources Association April 15th. The tour provided participants a full view of the history of the river including issues associated with the Truckee River Operating Agreement and the Settlement Act (PL101-618), power generation, flood control, river restoration, water diversions, dams, fish passage, and the like.

Hydrologic Model Workshop – A workshop on the pilot study for the regional hydrologic model development was held April 20th at 8:30 am in the Water Resources Community Conference Room with 20 people participating. They included regional public works personnel, engineers from various private firms and Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) personnel. The hydrologic model known as GSSHA (pronounced “Geisha”) is currently being considered for selection as the model platform on which to develop a hydrologic model for the entire region. Comments from the workshop participants and other reviewers led to a decision to evaluate an additional model platform before a making a decision on the preferred model platform. The next step in the process is review by the Technical Advisory Committee and presentation of an update to the FPCC.

Meetings

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – The TAC met April 30th and discussed a variety of topics including the Corps modeling efforts and project schedule, Phase 1 of the Manhard study to select a hydrologic modeling program to develop a hydrologic model for the Truckee Meadows, Virginia Street Bridge TRAction Project, property discussions and water reclamation as an element of the Living River Parkway prior to an NDOT resurfacing project.

Staff Development

Emergency Preparedness Center (EPC) Training – Eric Scheetz, Flood Project Engineer attended a three day training (April 14-16) at the Regional Emergency Operations Center. The Washoe County Emergency Management Program functions as a coordination agency during a disaster, to provide such assistance as may be needed by the affected communities to safeguard life and property. The intent was to assess and address the effects of the event. This training focuses on the use of the Incident Command System (ICS) as part of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Eric is the Flood Project’s emergency preparedness representative.

Truckee River Seminar – Newer flood project staff attended the two-day Truckee River Tour sponsored by the Nevada Water Resources Association April 15th and 16th. The tour provided participants a full view of the history of the river including issues associated with the Truckee River Operating Agreement and the Settlement Act (PL101-618), power generation, flood control, river restoration, water diversions, dams, fish passage, and the like. This tour is highly recommended for anyone working on the Truckee River. For information on next year’s tour contact Janet Phillips, tahoepyramidbike@aol.com

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.