



FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 8, 2009

DATE: May 1, 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 April 2009

SUMMARY

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

PREVIOUS ACTION

The most recent status report for March 2009 was presented to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee at their April 10, 2009 meeting.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Legislative Issues

Assembly Bill 54 (AB 54) – AB 54 (including Section 2- Paying for floodproofing on private property) was voted out of the Assembly Government Affairs Committee April 9th with the County amendments plus a conceptual amendment from Marilyn Kirkpatrick (chair of committee) requiring groundwater management plans to be prepared prior to expending public funds on sewer/water connections. The next step is for AB 54 to be heard in the Senate Government Affairs Committee. The tentative date for the Senate hearing is Friday, May 8 at 1:30.

Senate Bill 175 (SB175) – SB 175 (Flood Project JPA and rates) was passed in the Senate and heard in the Assembly Government Affairs Committee on April 17th. The hearing went very well with a number of supporters testifying in support of the bill and no one opposing the bill. Questions included clarification on what the Flood Project is doing now, TRAction projects, agricultural and recreational access to the river, the relationship of Assembly Bill 54 to SB 175, and how the Flood Project differs from more traditional drainage and flood control projects already authorized in statute. The next step is a Work Session in the Assembly Government Affairs Committee. That date has yet to be determined.

Storey County Support – Director Duerr met with Storey County officials in early April regarding participation with the Flood Project. Storey County representatives expressed an interest in possibly becoming voting members of the newly formed Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that would result if SB175 is passed.

Fiscal Issues

FY 2010 Budget – The Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) approved the FY 2010 Flood Project budget at the April 10th FPCC meeting. A presentation on the budget was provided to the County Commissioners on April 13th with no redirect or questions.

Homeless Shelter – The FPCC authorized an extension to the facility use agreement for 85 North Edison for the temporary overflow homeless shelter at their April 10th meeting. The request by the City of Reno was driven by the continuing frigid weather and the increase in the homeless population due to current economic conditions.

TRAction Projects

Lower Mustang Restoration TRAction Project – The Board of County Commissioners approved a Funding and Construction Agreement for the Truckee River Lower Mustang Ranch Ecosystem Restoration Project at the April 14th meeting. The Nature Conservancy will construct the project, funding it in part with the \$1.675 million in funds from the AB-5 grant authorized by the Nevada 2007 Legislature. The Storey County Commission approved the Special Use Permit at their April 21st regularly scheduled meeting. 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.

Lockwood TRAction Project – The lower trail and parking area is now completed with rocks placed as curb stops for the parking spaces. The pad has been constructed for the large concrete entrance sign with the Flood Project working in concert with Parks to define the best look and feel for the signage.

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Traction Project Update – Above ground progress is now visible on the first floodwall construction project at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony site. Work has been underway for approximately three months with the concrete floodwall currently being poured. The floodwall will be a neutral earth tone color with various relief patterns. The pouring and curing process is expected to continue for the next few weeks.

Local Sponsors/Collaborative Efforts

Working Group - Working Group met April 29th with discussions that included property management, pending legislation and TRAction projects that are currently underway including Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) Lockwood, and Hidden Valley. The members present agreed that a tour of the RSIC and Marble Bluff Fish Passage on May 27th in lieu of the May regularly scheduled meeting was appropriate.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) - The TAC met April 24th and in the absence of a quorum, Deputy District Attorney Greg Salter clarified that it was an informal meeting of interlocal staffs. Discussion included property management, pending legislation and appointment of alternates. Members present asked that the by-laws be brought back for further discussion at the May meeting.

Outreach

University of Florida - A sixteen year tradition continued 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 on April 15th. 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 the university's on-line master's program in water resources.

River Tour -The Nevada Water Resources Association's (NWRA) annual river tour occurred this week (April 23 and 24) with Paul Urban, Flood Project Manager, providing tour guidance at the McCarran Ranch, 102 Ranch, and Lockwood restoration projects , and also at the Vista Reefs. Jay Aldean and Tridh Yohey participated in the Tour.

Fish Passage Tour – A tour of the Marble Bluff Fish Passage Facility located approximately three miles upstream of Pyramid Lake was set for Wednesday, May 27th. Notice will go out to stakeholders, FPCC members, the Technical Advisory Group and Working Group as details are confirmed.

Washington DC – Director Duerr, FPCC Chair Bob Larkin and Vice-Chair Ron Smith traveled to Washington, D.C. at the end of the month. The group visited with the Nevada Congressional Delegation (including Congressman Heller, Senator Reid's office, and Senator Ensign's office), the Corps Headquarters (senior staff), the Office of Management and Budget (our project examiner), the Council on Environmental Quality (our project reviewer), and the key staffer for Energy and Water Appropriations. Accompanying the Nevada group were Mia O'Connell the Flood Project's Washington liaison with the Corps, Administration offices, and Congressional committees, and Olivia Sanford of Marcus Faust's office (key liaison with Congress). A full report on the outcomes of the trip will be provided under separate cover.

Rainbow Bend Homeowners - Jay Aldean, Deputy Director, attended the Rainbow Bend Homeowner's meeting on April 28th regarding FEMA's new "digital flood insurance rate maps" (or DFIRMs). The new maps were transmitted to residents along with proposed increases in flood insurance rates. In some cases, the new rates were much higher than before.

At the meeting, it was made clear by FEMA representatives that the new maps were essentially the same as the old (just electronic instead of paper), but FEMA's attention to the maps revealed that for many years residents had been receiving lower insurance rates than they probably should have for the established levels of coverage. In essence, for many years FEMA was under-collecting and the residents were getting a break on their insurance. The new maps brought the discrepancy to light.

Jay Aldean was able to clarify that most of the potential flooding at Rainbow Bend is due to flooding from Long Valley Creek, which intersects the Truckee River right at the community, not from the Truckee River itself. The Flood Project's upstream levees, floodwalls and restoration areas are not expected to increase any flooding in Rainbow Bend due to mitigation to be put into place by the flood project over the next few years.

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.