

# Truckee River Flood Management Project

## FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE: June 11, 2010**

**DATE:** June 2, 2010

**TO:** Flood Project Coordinating Committee Members

**FROM:** Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Management Project, 850-7420  
[nduerr@washoecounty.us](mailto:nduerr@washoecounty.us)

**SUBJECT:** Accept Truckee River Flood Management Project Status Report for May 2010

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### SUMMARY

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

### PREVIOUS ACTION

The most recent status report for April 2010 was presented to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee at their May 14, 2010 meeting.

### MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

#### Improve Regional Collaboration



L to R- Bob Larkin, Ron Smith, ASA Darcy, Colonel Chapman, Dave Humke, Bob Dickens, Naomi Duerr

**Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) Visit –**  
The new ASA for Civil Works, Jo-Ellen Darcy, arrived in Reno May 26<sup>th</sup> and after a briefing on the project, flew the 50-mile length of the Project in a Blackhawk Helicopter flown by the Nevada Air National Guard. This brief but informative tour was followed by a community luncheon at the Grand Sierra Resort with more than 75 in attendance. An informal discussion was the finale of the visit, with the ASA's comments including recognition of the immediate needs and concerns in the Truckee Meadows and staff proposing a new policy initiative to speed up completion of the project

plan. Media coverage was significant with two of three local television news outlets requesting interviews, along with the Reno-Gazette Journal and the Sparks Tribune.

**Hydrologic Model** – Jay Aldean, Deputy Director presented an update on the status of the hydrologic model at the May 14<sup>th</sup> FPCC meeting. Mr. Aldean indicated that one additional type of model (an HMS) would need to be reviewed prior to the consultant finalizing their recommendations. A contract amendment for an additional \$25,000 to finalize Phase I of this project – model selection - will move forward to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

**SWAT Team Training** – The Flood Project building located at 125 N Edison was recently the site used for Reno SWAT Team and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) training. This successful collaboration enables important community safety organizations to hone their skills while utilizing a Flood Project owned space that is currently available.

**Marble Bluff Tour** – Flood Project Staff visited the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Marble Bluff Fish Passage facility May 28<sup>th</sup>. This facility aids in the spawning migration of cui-ui and Lahontan Cutthroat Trout for Pyramid Lake into the Truckee River. Fish Passage is a key component of the Flood Project plan and the visit contributed to a better understanding of the complexities of this important issue.

### **TRAction Projects**

**Home Elevation** – Washoe County Commissioners adopted a proposed ordinance to establish a financial assistance program to property owners in selected areas to make those properties resistant to flood damage on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Project Manager Jay Aldean is now working on setting up a meeting for potential Home Elevation candidates in the Hidden Valley, Eastside Subdivision and Rosewood Lakes Areas to discuss the program.

Additionally, both the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) and the Board of County Commissioners authorized the Flood Project to move forward with an RFQ to solicit firms and/or individuals to provide structural engineering services to support the Home Elevation Program.

**Virginia Street Bridge** – Flood Project staff attended the Reno City Council meeting May 12<sup>th</sup> for the approval of the City of Reno as a concurring party to an Amendment to the 1996 Memorandum of Agreement for Virginia and Center Street Bridges between the Federal Highway Administration and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office. The amended MOA releases the FHWA from its obligation to rehabilitate the Virginia Street Bridge allowing for the replacement of the Virginia Street Bridge in connection with the Truckee River Flood Project and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in strict consultation with SHPO and other parties during the design process.

### **Awards**

**American Public Works Association (APWA) Award** – At the end of April, the Flood Project's recently completed Reno/Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) Floodwall and Levee TRAction Project was selected as the **2010 APWA Environmental Project-of-the-Year for the State of Nevada** for projects less than \$5 million. It will now move on as a contender for the same award at a national level.

### **Staff Development**

**ALERT Training** – Ed Evans, Senior Hydrogeologist attended the ALERT Users Group Conference May 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. This event has been held since 1982, providing valuable opportunities for training and discussions concerning effective operation, maintenance and management of real

time flood warning systems. The theme for the conference reflected the critical need for trained staff to operate and maintain flood warning systems across the country. Significant advances in equipment and software, plus key regulatory changes make it imperative that professional managers of flood warning systems keep abreast of these changes.

**FLO-2D Training** – Paul Urban, Project Manager attended FLO-2D training May 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. FLO-2D is a dynamic flood routing model that simulates channel flow, unconfined overland flow and street flow. It can simulate a flood over complex topography and roughness while reporting on volume conservation, the key to accurate flood distribution. FLO-2D is a critical component of the Flood Project's overall hydraulic model.

### **Outreach**

**Snapshot Day** – The 8th Annual Water Quality Snapshot Day was held Saturday, May 10, in Reno, Truckee and Lake Tahoe. Volunteers from the Flood Project included Melissa Faigeles, Mimi Fujii-Strickler and Lisa Diebler along with her four children. They spent the morning conducting water quality sampling and physical habitat assessment at the North Truckee Drain location in Sparks. The event is a citizen-based environmental effort designed to take a snapshot, at one moment in time, of the water quality throughout the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River watershed. The assessment took place from the tributaries flowing into Lake Tahoe all the way to the waters of Pyramid Lake. It was sponsored by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the City of Reno, Truckee River Watershed Council, University of California Cooperative Extension, and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

### **Meetings**

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** – The Flood Project TAC met May 28<sup>th</sup> and discussed a variety of topics including an update on the Corps' modeling efforts and project schedule, an engineering and architectural services Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to support the Home Elevation grant program.

### **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.