



## FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE: August 13, 2010**

**DATE:** August 3, 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 June and July 2010

---

---

### **SUMMARY**

A status report on the activities related to the Truckee River Flood Management Project for the months of June and July 2010 is provided herein.

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

The most recent status report for May 2010 was presented to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee at their June 11, 2010 meeting.

### **MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**

#### **Regional Collaboration**

**Fish Passage** – The Fish Passage working group consisting of Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Paiute Tribal members, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation and other stakeholders met June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Flood Project office. The focus of the meeting was to look at the fish passage alternatives from the Corps and solicit feedback from all the stakeholders in order to reach consensus and address concerns. These meetings are a continuing effort towards a successful conclusion with this important element of the overall Flood Project.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife's State Supervisor for Nevada, Bob Williams appeared at the June 11<sup>th</sup> FPCC meeting to discuss the Flood Project planning process, project elements and continuing coordination. This was in response to a request by the Flood Project Coordinating Committee to ensure all parties participating in the Fish Passage element of the Project have an opportunity to express concerns or answer questions. As the discussion ensued, all parties expressed a desire to work together on this important issue.

**JPA Update** – At the June 11<sup>th</sup> Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) Meeting, Director Naomi Duerr gave the Board an update on the current status and timeline for the formation of the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between the cities of Reno and Sparks, and Washoe County to implement a new JPA (Joint Powers Authority) to include the financing, construction, ownership,

operation and maintenance of the Truckee River Flood Management Project. The current timeline for development of the JPA Cooperative Agreement is as follows:

February 1, 2010	Reno, Sparks and Washoe County governing bodies approve Key Provisions at the Joint meeting
February/March 2010	Legal Staff develop draft of new JPA Cooperative Agreement
April – June 2010	Flood Project staff vet sections of JPA Cooperative Agreement and refine issues re: development review, Sparks rates, UNR, MOU, etc.
July 12, 2010	Joint Meeting update on JPA Agreement progress
July - August 2010	Flood Funding Oversight Team and Managers vet JPA Agreement
August 2010	FPCC Consideration of JPA Cooperative Agreement - Board of Regents consideration of MOU with UNR (if necessary)
October 2010	Joint Meeting consideration of JPA Agreement
Fall 2010	Establish and organize JPA

In addition, Director Naomi Duerr presented an update on the development of Flood Project JPA at the joint meeting of Reno, Sparks, Washoe County and the Washoe County School District on July 12<sup>th</sup>. The Director answered several questions from various Council and Commission members and also reported that additional meetings with various entities are still necessary to finalize the agreement in order for the Flood Project to become a JPA.

**Washington DC Trip** – Naomi Duerr, Director and Ron Smith, FPCC Chair were in Washington DC the week of June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting with federal legislators and decision makers including the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Corps Headquarters, Council on Environmental Quality, Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee, Office of Management and Budget, Senator Reid, Senator Ensign, and Congressman Heller. This is a continuing effort to keep the Truckee River Flood Project top-of-mind and keep the legislators and key Corps officials informed of “successes” and “stalls” of the \$1.6 billion Project.

**Flood Warning System** - At the June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Washoe County Commissioners approved the transfer of the Flood Warning System from the Department of Water Resources to the Flood Project effective July 1, 2010. The transfer also included the position of Senior Hydrogeologist, Ed Evans, along with the responsibilities of funding, managing, operations and maintenance of the Flood Warning System. It is estimated that Washoe County will save approximately \$90,000 in general fund dollars due to the transfer, with the cities of Reno and Sparks expected to save similar amounts.

**Working Group** – The Working Group met June 29<sup>th</sup> and discussed a variety of topics including an update on the JPA, an update on the Financial Assistance Program for Home Elevation, an update on the Regional Hydrologic Model and an update on Fish Passage. At a member’s request, the Southeast Connector will be added to the agenda for discussion at the August meeting with the July meeting being cancelled.

**Corps Change of Command** – Jay Aldean, Deputy Director and Paul Urban, Project Manager attended the Sacramento District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers change of command ceremony

July 27<sup>th</sup>. Colonel Chapman relinquished command to Colonel William Leady. The Change of Command Ceremony symbolically transfers authority and responsibility from one commander to the next ensuring a continuous, unbroken chain of command. Colonel Leady will be visiting the Flood Project August 18<sup>th</sup> and a tour and briefing are in the planning stages for that visit. More details will be forthcoming as they are finalized.

### **TRAction Projects**

**Home Elevation** – A town hall style meeting was held Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> in the County Commission Chambers to present the recently approved Financial Assistance Program. The Program is for homeowners that may be eligible to receive financial assistance to have their homes raised in the Hidden Valley, Eastside Subdivision and Rosewood Lakes areas. More than 50 participants were in attendance at this important first meeting. The program presentation was followed by questions and answers which comprised the majority of the meeting. Participants were provided handouts with maps, flowcharts and more, with additional information to follow in the near future. Deputy Director Jay Aldean reported the homeowner application would be available on the Flood Project's website as of July 30<sup>th</sup> (they were). As of this date, seven applications have already been received. The application is the first step in the process for approval of potential home elevations.

For more information regarding the Home Elevation Financial Assistance Program, please visit our website at [www.truckeeflood.us](http://www.truckeeflood.us)

**Home Elevation Structural RFQ** – A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to establish the specifications, terms, and conditions governing the selection of architectural and/or engineering firm(s) to provide structural inspection, cost estimation and civil engineering services to support the Flood Project's Home Elevation Program was publicly noticed and issued with the Flood Project with a "return" deadline of July 9<sup>th</sup>. Fourteen submittals were received, and four of these were selected to propose for the on-call contracts. The oncall contracts will be presented at the August 13<sup>th</sup> FPCC meeting, with an expectation of moving this item forward to the BCC on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Restoration/Recreation** – Flood Project and Nature Conservancy staff met with personnel from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District office to begin discussion on the conceptual ecological model for the restoration, monitoring and adaptive management plan for the restoration/recreation features of the Flood Project. This is the first step toward the development of a plan to monitor the outcomes and gauge the successes of the recreation and restoration project elements.

### **Sustainable Economic, Natural, Organizational, and Social Resources**

**Benefits Study** - As reported in the Sparks Tribune June 20th, the Flood Project is in discussion with Kim Rollins, University of Nevada, Reno professor of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics on a restoration and recreation benefits analysis study. The study would result in a tool that could assist in the flood fee setting process. Expectations are to have survey data collected by year end (2010). Visit the "Newsroom" at [www.truckeeflood.us](http://www.truckeeflood.us) to view the Sparks Tribune article.

### **Outreach**

**UNR Farms** - Local Homeowner Association Board Member, Kim Rhodemyre organized a citizen's meeting June 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss the disposition of the UNR Farm property. Milton Glick, UNR President, Marc Johnson, UNR Vice President/Provost, and Dr. Pardini of the Agriculture

Department were asked to participate in answering questions relative to the future of the property currently owned by the University. Other levels of participation included Reno City Council member Jessica Sferrazza and Director Duerr of the Flood Project.

**Reno Developer's Meeting** – Jay Aldean, Deputy Director and Paul Urban, Project Manager presented information on the Floodplain Mitigation Ordinance to the Reno Developer's Advisory Group July 29<sup>th</sup>. As stated in a previous e-update, the ordinance will be moved forward with a first reading taking place September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Reno City Council meeting and a second reading October 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Reno/Sparks Chamber Event** - Washoe County was featured at the Reno Sparks Chamber Event on Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Flood Project Director Duerr and Mimi Fujii-Strickler were present with a wide array of materials about the Flood Project for all that attended this monthly event. The program featured Commission Chairman David Humke and County Manager Katy Simon who discussed the County's budget challenges, organization, services and programs that are offered to Washoe County citizens. The event was filmed and is available on the County's website at [www.washoecounty.us](http://www.washoecounty.us) for viewing on demand.

**UNR Talk and Tour** – Paul Urban and Danielle Henderson presented eight UNR students a talk and tour of the Truckee River Flood Project July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The students are conducting research on science and policy issues in the region with academic mentors for 10 weeks this summer. As part of the summer course, students are attending a series of talks by outside speaker so that they can attain a broader perspective on the issues facing the region.

**Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Tour** – Flood Project staff is planning to be a part of the 2010 EPSCoR Summer Institute for Washoe County K-12 teachers. The focus of this year's Institute is disturbances in our region: flooding, insect outbreaks, regional climate change effects, etc. The Flood Project's "day" of August 4<sup>th</sup> includes a discussion on climate change and how it affects our region and floods, an in-class flooding simulation by Ed Evans, and a Flood Project tour of projects by Danielle Henderson, Melissa Faigeles, and Eric Scheetz that have been completed or are under construction

**Flood Project Video** – Filming began July 23<sup>rd</sup> for the Flood Project video. Flood Project staff Paul Urban and Mimi Fujii-Strickler and a videographer floated the Truckee River to capture footage from Downtown Reno to the Restoration features downstream to gather images that will be used in the video, project presentations and reports.

#### Staff Development

**Online Bootcamp** – Public Information Officer, Susie Kapahee is attending a 5-week course sponsored by the Reno Gazette Journal, Advertising Agency KPS3 and the Reno Sparks Chamber titled "Online Boot Camp." This free class meets weekly and is intended to teach participants the details of online marketing including aspects of available social media outlets and how to utilize them effectively.

#### **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.

NSD:sk