

TRUCKEE RIVER FLOOD PROJECT



PHOTOS BY LIZ MARGERUM/RGJ

Eric Scheetz, far right, of the Truckee River Flood Project staff, leads a tour Tuesday of the first levee and flood wall built as part of the Truckee River Flood Project in Reno. The earthen levee and concrete wall stretch 2,200 feet from U.S. 395 to the Glendale Avenue bridge.

# Levee construction complete

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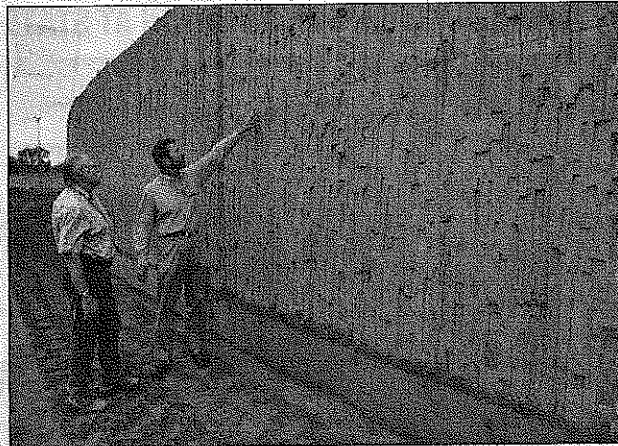
Construction essentially is complete on the first phase in an ambitious effort to control flooding along the Truckee River, officials at the site said Tuesday.

The \$5.8 million levee and flood wall off East Second Street, just east of U.S. 395, will protect a new Wal-Mart Supercenter that the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony plans to build.

"This area is now officially protected from flooding," said Jay Aldean, deputy director of the Truckee River Flood Project.

The earthen levee and concrete flood wall stretch 2,200 feet from U.S. 395 to the Glendale Avenue bridge. When backfilling is completed, it will be 4 feet to 8 feet tall.

It is designed to guard against flooding of the type that inundated the area, as



John Gutch, left, and Dan St. John, both of the Washoe County Public Works department, examine the flood wall Tuesday. It will protect a new Wal-Mart Supercenter to be built this year.

well as much of the Truckee Meadows, in January 1997.

The levee system is a cornerstone of sorts for the overall flood project, expected to cost about \$1.5 billion.

The project was a combined effort of Washoe County, Reno, Sparks, the Indian Colony, Wal-Mart

and the state, which operates an old penal restoration center on the east end of the project. Through a land swap, the colony plans an \$8 million relocation of the center to Kietzke Lane and Second Street, allowing for future redevelopment along the river.

## TIMELINE

**APRIL 2007:** \$5.8 million levee and flood wall project approved by the Flood Project Coordinating Committee.

**DECEMBER 2007:** Project approved by Washoe County and the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Council.

**JANUARY 2008:** Agreement signed between the county, colony and Wal-Mart.

**JAN. 26:** Construction started.

**FEBRUARY:** Crews unearthed debris from Reno's original city hall, demolished in 1963 and dumped at the site.

**TODAY:** Construction of levee and flood wall substantially completed.

**THIS SUMMER:** Construction of new Wal-Mart to begin.

Shortly after construction of the levee began last January, crews unearthed debris from Reno's original city hall, built in 1903 and demolished in 1963.