

Truckee River Flood Management Project



**Flood Project Coordinating
Committee Meeting
Agenda Book**

May 14, 2010



Truckee River
Flood Project

Flood Project
Coordinating
Committee

May 14, 2010

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance
and Roll Call

Announcements

Public Comment

Minutes

Finance Subcommittee Items

Report on Hydrologic Model

Technical Advisory Committee

Flood Project Monthly Reports

Army Corps of Engineers' Reports

Comments, Requests, and Future
Agenda Items

TRUCKEE RIVER FLOOD PROJECT COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

AASHTO	American Association of State Highway Officials
AF or AC-FT	Acre Feet
AFB	Alternative Formulation Briefing
AIA	American Institute of Architects
ARRA	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
ASA	Assistant Secretary of the Army
ATR	Agency Technical Review
BCC	Board of County Commissioners
BCERE	Baseline Cost Estimate for Real Estate
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CFS	Cubic Feet Per Second
COE	Corps of Engineers
CORPS	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CRA	Continuing Resolution Authority
CY	Cubic Yards
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ERDC	Army Corps Environmental Research and Development Center
ETR	External Technical Review
FCSA	Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FPCC	Flood Project Coordinating Committee
FPTAC	Flood Project Technical Advisory Committee
FPWG	Flood Project Working Group
FRC	Feasibility Review Conference
GIS	Geographical Information System
GRR	General Reevaluation Report
IWRWC	Interim Western Regional Water Commission
HEC-RAS	Hydrologic Engineering Center - River Analysis System (the River Hydraulic Model)
HEC-1	Hydrologic Engineering Center - 1 (the Hydrologic Model)
HQUSACE	Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Washington DC)
HTRW	Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Wastes
IDIQ	Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity
ILA	Interlocal Agreement
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
KEYWAY	A small, usually concrete wall, which extends below the foundation of a floodwall or levee into the ground to stabilize the wall/levee.
LERRD	Lands, Easements, and Rights-of-Way, Relocations and Disposal Areas
LID	Low Impact Development
LID	Local Improvement District
LPP	Locally Preferred Plan
MCACES	Micro-Computer Aided Cost Estimating System
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NDEP	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

TRUCKEE RIVER FLOOD PROJECT COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

NDOT	Nevada Department of Transportation
NED	National Economic Development Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NVLC	Nevada Land Conservancy
NRS	Nevada Revised Statutes
NWRA	Nevada Water Resources Association
PCA	Project Cooperating Agreement (Replaced with PPA - see below)
PDT	Project Delivery Team
PED	Planning, Engineering and Design
PMBP	Project Management Business Process
PMP	Project Management Plan
PMT	Project Management Team
PPA	Project Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the financing and construction of the project. (Replaces the PCA)
R and U	Risk and Uncertainty
REDM	Real Estate Design Memorandum
REP	Real Estate Plan
RETRAC	Reno Transportation Rail Access Corridor
RFP	Request for Proposals
RFQ	Request for Qualifications
ROD	Record of Decision
RSIC	Reno Sparks Indian Colony
RTAA	Reno Tahoe Airport Authority
RTC	Regional Transportation Commission
RWPC	Regional Water Planning Commission
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SNPLMA	Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
SOW	Scope of Work
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TRFMA	Truckee River Flood Management Authority
TMWA	Truckee Meadows Water Authority
TMSA	Truckee Meadows Service Area
TMWRF	Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TRAction	Truckee River Action (Project)
TRFP	Truckee River Flood Project
TROA	Truckee River Operating Agreement
URA	Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act
URA Reg	Federal regulations implementing the URA
WCDWR	Washoe County Department of Water Resources
WG	Working Group
WRDA	Water Resources Development Act
WSEL	Water Surface Elevations



Meeting Date: May 14, 2010

VOTING MEMBERS (Quorum = five):

- ___ Ron Smith (Chair) (*City of Sparks*)
- ___ Dan Gustin (Vice-Chair) (*City of Reno*)
- ___ Bob Cashell (*City of Reno*)
- ___ Robert Dickens (*UNR*)
- ___ David Humke (*Washoe County*)
- ___ Bob Larkin (*Washoe County*)
- ___ Geno Martini (*City of Sparks*)
- ___ Ron Zurek (*UNR*)

VOTING ALTERNATES:

- ___ Jessica Sferrazza (*Reno*)
- ___ Kitty Jung (*Washoe County*)
- ___ Troy Miller (*UNR*)
- ___ Julia Ratti (*Sparks*)

NON VOTING MEMBERS:

- ___ Shaun Carey (*Sparks*)
- ___ Franco Crivelli (*Community Coalition*)
- ___ Donna Dreska (*Reno*)
- ___ John Flansberg (*Reno Public Works*)
- ___ John Jackson (*Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe*)
- ___ Dennis Miller (*Storey County Rep.*)
- ___ Burnham Moffat (*Comm. Coalition Alt.*)
- ___ Mary Ann Parrot (*Reno Finance*)
- ___ Dan St. John (*W.C. Public Works*)
- ___ Dean Schultz (*Reno Tahoe Int'l Airport*)
- ___ Wayne Seidel (*Sparks Public Works Dir.*)

NON VOTING MEMBERS continued:

- ___ John Sherman (*W.C. Finance Director*)
- ___ Katy Simon (*W.C. Manager*)
- ___ Vacant (*UNR*)

NON VOTING ALTERNATES:

- ___ Connie Butts (*Storey County Alt.*)
- ___ David Childs (*W.C. Manager Alt.*)
- ___ Dennis Ghiglieri (*Comm. Coalition Alt.*)
- ___ Susan Schlerf (*Reno Alternate*)
- ___ Jeff Cronk (*Sparks Alternate*)
- ___ Todd Welty (*RTAA Alternate*)

END OF ROLL CALL

STAFF

- ___ Naomi Duerr (*Director*)
- ___ Jay Aldean (*Deputy Director*)
- ___ Mimi Fujii-Strickler (*Admin Svcs & Govt Affrs Mgr*)
- ___ Susie Kapahee (*Public Info. Officer*)
- ___ Paul Urban (*Senior Licensed Engineer*)
- ___ Greg Salter (*W.C. District Atty*)
- ___ Danielle Henderson (*Natural Resource Mgr*)
- ___ Ed Evans (*Sr. Hydrogeologist*)
- ___ Melissa Faigeles (*Natural Resource Planner*)
- ___ Eric Scheetz (*Licensed Engineer*)
- ___ Laura Bayer (*Administrative Assistant II*)
- ___ Lisa Diebler (*Account Clerk*)
- ___ Kevin Gorges (*Intern*)



FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF MEETING
AND
AGENDA

FRIDAY – MAY 14, 2010 – 8:30 A.M.

Washoe County Commission Chambers
1st Floor of Building A
1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada

Voting Members

Ron Smith, Chair
Dan Gustin, Vice-Chair
Robert Cashell
Robert Dickens
David Humke
Bob Larkin
Geno Martini
Ron Zurek

Non-Voting Members

Shaun Carey	Burnham Moffat
Franco Crivelli	Jill Olsen
Jeff Cronk	Dean Schultz
Donna Dreska	Dan St. John
John Flansberg	Wayne Seidel
John Jackson	John Sherman
Dennis Miller	Katy Simon

Pursuant to NRS 241.020, this notice has been posted at the following locations:

Washoe County Administration, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada.

Sparks City Hall - City Clerk, 431 Prater Way, Sparks, Nevada.

Reno City Hall - City Clerk, One E. First St., Reno, Nevada.

Truckee River Flood Project Office, 9390 Gateway Drive, Reno, Nevada

Truckee River Flood Project website: <http://truckeefflood.us> (Click Committees, then Meeting Agendas, then scroll down to Finance Subcommittee), **OR** go to http://truckeefflood.us/140/meeting_agendas.html

PUBLIC COMMENT: In order to conduct orderly, efficient, effective and dignified meetings that promote a governmental purpose with a governmental process, public comment may address any agenda item or other public issue that the Flood Project Coordinating Committee has the authority to effectuate or exercise control over. Public comment on matters beyond the Flood Project Coordinating Committee's scope of authority is not relevant to the Committee's business, does not invoke a governmental process nor serve a governmental purpose, and is contrary to the effective, efficient and orderly business conducted by the Committee. Each person addressing the Flood Project Coordinating Committee shall fill out a request to speak form, step up to the microphone when called, give his/her name, and limit the time of his/her presentation to three (3) minutes. All public comment remarks shall be addressed to the Committee as a body, and not to any member thereof. No person, other than members of the Committee and the person having the floor, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion, either directly or through members of the Committee. No questions shall be asked of the Committee members, except through the presiding officer. The Committee reserves the right to determine during its meeting, through a vote of its members, whether to allow additional public comment, limited to one (1) minute per person, on specified individual items on the agenda.

NOTES: Items on the agenda may be considered in an order different than they appear on the agenda. Unless otherwise indicated by an asterisk (*), all items on the agenda are action items upon which the Flood Project Coordinating Committee may act. The meeting facility is accessible to the disabled. Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations or assistance (e.g., sign language, interpreters or assisted listening devices) at the meeting should notify Flood Project staff at 850-7429, forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL** - Determination of a Quorum

2. * **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

3. * **PUBLIC COMMENT** - For all items on or off the agenda, limited to 3 minutes per person

4. **MINUTES** –

A. **Approve Provisional Minutes of FPCC meeting of April 9, 2010.**

5. **FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ITEMS**

A. **JPA UPDATE**

Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Project

Report on recent meetings, developments, proposals and timelines regarding development of a new Cooperative Agreement to establish a Joint Powers Authority for the Flood Project. Possible discussion and action to provide instructions to staff regarding the contents of the draft Cooperative Agreement regarding membership, governance, administration, and regulatory powers of the proposed Joint Powers Authority; the acquisition of land and the construction, ownership, operation and maintenance of flood facilities; the assessment and collection of rates and fees to pay for the project; the financing of the project; and the rights and obligations of parties to the Cooperative Agreement.

B. **CARMEN GROUP UPDATE**

Mimi Fujii-Strickler, Flood Project Supervisor, Truckee River Flood Project

Update on the Carmen Group's lobbyist activities. Possible action to accept the report and/or provide direction to staff on related lobbying matters.

C. **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) TO HIRE ONE OR MORE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS FOR UP TO \$300,000 TO SUPPORT THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Jay Aldean, Deputy Director, Truckee River Flood Management

Request authorization to issue an RFQ to solicit firms and/or individuals to provide structural engineering services to support the Home Elevation Program. Up to four engineering firms/individuals may be hired to provide structural engineering evaluations, preliminary design services, and cost estimation services. Possible action to approve issuance of an RFQ and/or provide direction to staff.

D. **MONTHLY REPORTS ON FLOOD PROJECT FINANCIAL STATUS AND FINANCIAL RELATED ACTIVITIES**

Lisa Gianoli, Consultant, Truckee River Flood Project

Update on monthly and year-to-date revenues and expenditures and related financial activities of the Truckee River Flood Project. Discussion of cash flow projections. Possible action to accept the report and/or provide direction to staff on related financial matters.

6. REPORT ON HYDROLOGIC MODEL

Jay Aldean, Deputy Director, Truckee River Flood Project

Update on the status of Hydrologic Model. Possible action to accept the report and/or provide direction to staff.

7. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Dan St. John, TAC Chair

Report on activities related to the Truckee River Flood Project's Technical Advisory Committee. Possible discussion and action to accept the report and provide direction to staff. Includes April 30, 2010 meeting agenda, minutes, and TAC attendance sheet.

8. FLOOD PROJECT MONTHLY REPORTS

Presentation on flood project events, activities, and schedules. Possible action to accept reports and/or provide direction to staff.

A. MONTHLY STATUS REPORT FOR APRIL 2010

Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Project

B. LOBBYISTS' UPDATES

Mimi Fujii-Strickler, Flood Project Supervisor, Truckee River Flood Project

Report on lobbyist activities for the month of April 2010.

C. CLIPPINGS

9. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

A. MONTHLY REPORT

Roger Henderson, Project Manager, Civil Works Branch, ACOE

Report on activities related to the Truckee River Flood Management Project including project scheduling and funding. Will include update on documents and process for Internal Technical Review currently underway. Possible action to accept the report and provide direction to staff related to Truckee River Flood Management Project scheduling and funding items as set forth in the report.

B. PROJECT TIMELINE REPORT

Jay Aldean, Deputy Director, Truckee River Flood Project

10. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS, REQUESTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Possible action to approve items for future agendas.

11. ADJOURNMENT



FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

April 9, 2010, 8:30 A.M.

**Washoe County Commission Chambers
1001 East Ninth Street
Reno, Nevada**

DRAFT OF MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL - Determination of a Quorum

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. A quorum was established.

Voting Members Present:

Ron Smith, Chair
Dan Gustin, Vice-Chair
Robert Dickens
David Humke
Bob Larkin (arrived at 8:44 a.m.)
Geno Martini
Ron Zurek

Voting Members Absent:

Robert Cashell

Voting Alternates Present:

Troy Miller

Voting Alternates Absent:

Kitty Jung
Julia Ratti
Jessica Sferrazza

Non-Voting Members Present:

Shaun Carey
Donna Dreska
Dennis Miller
Burnham Moffat
Dean Schultz
Wayne Seidel
John Sherman
Katy Simon
Dan St. John (arrived at 8:59 a.m.)

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Franco Crivelli
John Flansberg
John Jackson
Dennis Miller
Mary Ann Parrot
Wayne Seidel

Non-Voting Alternates Present:

None

Non-Voting Alternates Absent:

Connie Butts
David Childs
Jeff Cronk
Dennis Ghiglieri
Susan Schlerf
Todd Welty

Staff Present: Naomi Duerr, Jay Aldean, Laura Bayer, Lisa Diebler, Ed Evans, Melissa Faigeles, Danielle Henderson, Susie Kapahee, Greg Salter, Eric Scheetz, and Paul Urban

Chair Smith led the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) in the Pledge of Allegiance. He also requested that this item be placed as a standing agenda item in the future.

2. MINUTES

A. Approve Provisional Minutes of Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) Meeting of March 12, 2010.

Member Humke moved to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2010 FPCC meeting. Member Martini seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

B. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY - Review Provisional Minutes of Finance Subcommittee (FSC) Meeting of March 11, 2010. Director Duerr reported that the FSC would be asked to approve the March 11, 2010 meeting minutes at their next meeting and added that they were provided to the FPCC as an informational item.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Smith welcomed Members and guests. He invited announcements.

Director Duerr reported that two new employees have been hired by the Flood Project and were present at the meeting. She introduced Ed Evans, who has worked for Washoe County Department of Water Resources (DWR) for over twenty years. She stated that Mr. Evans would be responsible for the Flood Warning System, which will include managing and approving the 50 gauge monitoring system, as well as to assist with the hydrologic monitoring of the restoration projects. She reported that while at DWR Mr. Evans was responsible for the surface and groundwater monitoring programs and locating new groundwater supplies. Chair Smith welcomed Mr. Evans and asked him to introduce himself.

Chair Smith asked Mr. Evans if he was responsible for meters, to which Mr. Evans clarified he was responsible for the monitoring gauges while working for DWR. Mr. Evans stated he was very pleased to be part of the Flood Project and added that monitoring the flood warning system was one of his duties while at DWR, which has now been assigned to the Flood Project. He added that he would like to provide an update to the FPCC on the flood warning system in a few months. He thanked the FPCC.

Director Duerr next introduced Melissa Faigeles, who recently joined the Flood Project as a Natural Resources Planner. She reported that Ms. Faigeles would be working with Danielle Henderson, who will be going on maternity leave in the next thirty days.

Ms. Faigeles reported that she has a degree in Ecology and Evolution from University of Pittsburgh. She added that she recently worked for California-Tahoe Conservancy in South Lake Tahoe, where she was working on large-scale river restoration projects on the upper Truckee River. She stated she was excited to be part of the Flood Project.

Director Duerr reported that a visit by Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) Darcy is scheduled for May 26, 2010. ASA Darcy will be accompanied by some senior Army Corps of Engineers

(Corps) Headquarters staff. She stated that a “community breakfast” or “meet and greet” will be scheduled in the morning, followed by a brief bus tour of some of the key projects (for which construction funds have been requested), and then by a helicopter tour of the entire project. She invited Board Members to attend.

Director Duerr stated that Lisa Diebler’s daughters were in attendance at the meeting to observe the political process in action. The Chair had them introduce themselves.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Smith called for public comment and hearing none, closed the public comment period.

5. FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ITEMS

A. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY (JPA) - Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Project

Report on recent meetings, developments, proposals and timelines regarding development of a new Cooperative Agreement to establish a Joint Powers Authority for the Flood Project. Possible discussion and action to provide instructions to staff regarding the contents of the draft Cooperative Agreement regarding membership, governance, administration, and regulatory powers of the proposed Joint Powers Authority; the acquisition of land and the construction, ownership, operation and maintenance of flood facilities; the assessment and collection of rates and fees to pay for the project; the financing of the project; and the rights and obligations of parties to the Cooperative Agreement.

Director Duerr stated that information on the JPA was included in the agenda book. She provided a brief update on the schedule for approval of the JPA. A joint meeting of all the entities was held in February, where all the parties approved the Key Provisions of the JPA. Legal staff then went to work drafting a very extensive and thorough agreement for future consideration. She stated that prior to bringing the JPA back to the FPCC, additional staff and manager review must take place. She added that the Technical Oversight Committee and the Managers Working Group would be reconvened to participate in a working session on the agreement.

Director Duerr reported that the original plan was to bring the JPA to the joint meeting on May 3, 2010 for approval; however, based on the time required to bring forth an agenda item, it is more likely that the JPA will be presented at the July joint meeting. She stated that alternatively, the JPA could be presented individually to the jurisdictions once the technical staff is in agreement to move forward.

Chair Smith called for questions and asked if the timeline stays the same. Director Duerr stated the timeline is still to establish and organize the JPA by July; however, there are a couple of policy issues that need to be more thoroughly vetted. She reported that Greg Salter, Legal Counsel, and she have reviewed the current agreement with University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), which speaks to not only entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as a precondition to transition them off the Board, but also transfer of the land. She added that given UNR’s current budget situation and the uncertain future of the Agricultural College (and the associated land assets and programs), further consideration will be necessary. She invited further comment from Member Dickens or Member Zurek, UNR.

Member Dickens stated that Director Duerr's comments were accurate and that UNR and the Board of Regents are in discussions regarding further budget reductions, some of which may affect the College of Agriculture. He stated at this time there is nothing more to report.

Director Duerr referred to the timetable included in the agenda book. She added that in terms of JPA review, April and May would be very busy for the staff and managers, and that June would be a very busy time for the FPCC and other elected officials. She summarized that once the JPA is established, a good portion of the summer is anticipated to be spent on developing a scaled-down version of the flood project that would fit into the \$525 million that would be available with the rates in place but without participation of the Corps. She stated that options are also being reviewed for billing and collections and administrative processes based on moving forward with the JPA. She added that in the fall, the rate assumptions and benefit analysis would be updated.

Director Duerr stated that in anticipation of an approved JPA, staff included additional money in the budget for financial analysis by FCS Group. She reported that staff has also contacted UNR's Resource Economics Department because they have staff and faculty who can provide additional review of the expected flood project benefits. She added that one of the professors specializes in areas such as assessing the benefits of wetland and ecosystem restoration. She stated that another professor specializes in assessing benefits of recreation. She summarized that a proposal was requested to ensure that all of the economic benefits are recognized in moving forward with the rates.

Chair Smith asked if the letter from fish and game has any affect on the process. Director Duerr stated that the letter from US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) does not affect the flood project process and timeline at this point. She explained that the Corps is required to formally consult with USFWS (Section 7 Consultation) throughout development of the project. She stated that the Corps is closing in on selecting the features of the fish passage plan for the project. She added that the FPCC has already approved a global fish passage plan in the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP); now the Corps is developing a more detailed fish passage plan for the National Economic Development (NED) plan in coordination with staff. She stated that recently USFWS felt they were at an impasse with the Corps on two issues: fish passage, specifically at Marble Bluff at Pyramid Lake and bank protection with rocks and rip-rap. She summarized that the consultation process is ongoing; but it is not anticipated to affect the formation of the JPA or rates.

Member Martini requested inviting a representative of USFWS to provide an explanation of the process, with which Director Duerr agreed. Director Duerr reiterated that Mr. Williams from USFWS would be invited to the next meeting to speak to the issues.

B. FY 10-11 BUDGET: ACCOMPLISHMENTS, GOALS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES - Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Project

Presentation on the Flood Project's FY 09-10 accomplishments and performance measures, and proposed activities for the approved FY 10-11 Budget. Possible action to accept the report and/or provide direction to staff

Director Duerr reported that at the last meeting, Vice-Chair Gustin requested an agenda item to summarize accomplishments, goals for next year and performance measures. She referred to a brief PowerPoint, which included:

- The main objective of the Flood Project is to prevent flood damages

- Customers are the general public and specifically those who flood
- Goals
 - Number 1 - Public safety and saving lives
 - Number 2 - Flood damage reduction and avoiding a billion plus dollars in damages
 - Number 3 - River restoration – 50 miles of river, including fish passage, restoring threatened and endangered species (cui-ui and Lahontan cutthroat trout) and improving biodiversity – Director Duerr explained the reason this goal is included in the Flood Project is based on the Water Settlement Agreement, whereby the Corps was directed to study, evaluate and recommend improvements for fish passage. She reported that a couple of years ago the Chairman of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT) went to Washington DC and met with the Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) and directed that the project move forward (past the study stage). The ASA agreed and the project was incorporated into the Flood Project.
 - Number 4 - Recreation and open space
 - Number 5 - Enhance our quality of life and economy. The Flood Project is anticipated to add 14,000 to 19,000 new jobs, which has begun with the four recently completed Truckee River Action (TRAction) projects.
 - The goal in working with the Corps is to complete planning, get the Flood Project authorized, obtain over a billion dollars in funding, and construct the project over the next twenty years. The construction will include locally funded and built projects, as well as federally built and funded projects.
- Accomplishments
 - Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Levee project – Of note is that contractors located part of the old Reno City Hall sign buried on the site, which has now been moved to the Railroad Museum in Carson City in anticipation of future restoration. In an effort to keep the project environmentally sensitive, Eric Scheetz spearheaded the use of a warm-mix for placement of asphalt on the trail. Recently the northern Nevada chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) selected the project as Best Project of the Year for the environment. Mr. Scheetz was selected as Young Engineer of the Year at the same time. Currently the project is being considered for an award by the Nevada chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA).
 - Lockwood Restoration – The project includes trails and a county-funded park.
 - Lower Mustang Ranch Restoration – The project was completed this year.
 - 102 Ranch Restoration – The project was completed this year.
 - Provided a bus tour to Steve Stockton, Senior Civil Engineer for the Corps.
 - Provided a tour of UNR Farms – Staff met with the UNR Dean, Associate Dean, the Provost, and a number of UNR employees. She thanked Members Dickens and Zurek for their help in coordinating the tour.
- Projects initiated this year include:
 - Design of the new Virginia Street Bridge – City of Reno took the lead and just completed the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to select a designer, which is Jacobs Engineering.
 - Sparks North Truckee Drain Relocation design – Staff has been working with the consultant HDR on the design, which is expected to be completed in late fall /

- early winter. Chair Smith stated that he believed work would begin soon on the overpass on Sparks Boulevard.
- Living River Parkway project was initiated at the direction of the FPCC. Currently work is being focused on the area between Rock and McCarran. The Corps has been funding the project, which has included geotechnical testing. In the next month or so Paul Urban will be requesting that this project become an official TRAction project. Construction funds were requested for this project in the Corps' next year budget.
 - Completing the last two acquisitions along the Living River Parkway – title reports and appraisals have recently been received. Demolition of the properties was requested under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding, for which the project is at the “top of the list”.
 - Flood Warning System has moved over to the Flood Project.
 - Relocation of tenants for the land acquisitions, as well as relocating pipes, cables, etc. Danielle Henderson stated that Kinder Morgan was responsible for relocating a jet fuel pipeline at Mustang Ranch; however The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Flood Project contributed money toward the work.
 - Home Elevation Program is being initiated. The Board of County Commissioners will have a first reading of the ordinance followed by a second hearing in late May. To date 15 to 20 people have expressed interest in the home elevation program.
 - The Flood Project was successful in passing two legislative bills, Senate Bill (SB) 175 and Assembly Bill (AB) 54.
 - The JPA project is moving forward.
 - Phase 1 of the Regional Hydrologic Model has been completed and staff scheduled a public workshop to include engineers, technical advisory committee (TAC) members and planners for April 20, 2010. This project is a pilot study on the Sun Valley watershed, which could then be used as a regional model when accepted.
 - Peer Review of the economic and hydraulic models – Flood Project staff has been focused on the review with the Corps for the last few months.

Director Duerr reiterated that the flood project's #1 goal is to prevent flooding. She added that Mr. Scheetz visited with some of the industrial businesses in Sparks to examine the economic impacts experienced during flooding. He is working with the Corps to develop an economic benefit analysis.

- Performance Measures

- Two properties have been acquired in the last year and two additional are anticipated to be acquired next year.
- Eight tenants have been relocated and twenty tenants are anticipated for relocation next year.
- Many tours, meetings and presentations were provided and more are anticipated for the next year.
- Outreach on Facebook was initiated and 500 fans were reached in the first couple of months.
- The JPA is anticipated to be 75% finalized by the end of this year. The associated fees are anticipated to be in place by next year.

- The Corps plan is approximately 80% complete and hopefully it will be 90% complete next year.
- Ms. Henderson is organizing a clean-up at the Bristlecone property and preparing Ms. Faigeles to manage the project in her absence.

Member Martini made a motion to accept the report and verbal update. Member Humke seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Director Duerr thanked Vice-Chair Gustin for suggesting bringing this item forward. Vice-Chair Gustin stated that he was prompted by Sparks City Manager Shaun Carey.

Director Duerr stated that staff is working on a 5-year report that will summarize the above accomplishments as well as additional information. She added that Chair Smith suggested developing a video presentation on the Flood Project, including interviews with FPCC members. Sparks, Reno and Washoe County will be asked to provide input on preparing the presentation.

C. CARMEN GROUP UPDATE - Mimi Fujii-Strickler, Flood Project Supervisor, Truckee River Flood Project

Update on the Carmen Group's lobbyist activities. Possible action to accept the report and/or provide direction to staff on related lobbying matters.

In Mimi Fujii-Strickler's absence, Director Duerr stated that a request for funding is moving forward; however, the House of Representatives agreed to remove any earmarks for funding. She stated that Senator Reid was able to request \$20 million for the Flood Project (\$10 million for planning and design and \$10 million for construction). A conference call with all the lobbyists occurred about a week ago and is scheduled on a monthly basis.

Chair Smith asked if the trip to Washington DC is still planned for May. Director Duerr stated yes and added that the trip is proposed for the first week of May (as recommended by the lobbyists).

D. MONTHLY REPORTS ON FLOOD PROJECT FINANCIAL STATUS AND FINANCIAL RELATED ACTIVITIES – Jay Aldean, Deputy Director, Truckee River Flood Project

Update on monthly and year-to-date revenues and expenditures and related financial activities of the Truckee River Flood Project. Discussion of cash flow projections. Possible action to accept the report and/or provide direction to staff on related financial matters.

Director Duerr stated that the monthly report was provided in the agenda book for review and invited questions or comments from Members. Chair Smith requested a comparison of the last three years of expenditures, which Director Duerr agreed to provide.

Member Martini made a motion to accept the report and verbal update. Member Humke seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT – John Flansberg, TAC Member

Report on meetings of the Truckee River Flood Management Project Technical Advisory Committee, and any recommendations or advice it has for the FPCC. Possible discussion and action to accept the report and provide direction to staff. Includes March 26, 2010 meeting agenda, minutes, and TAC attendance sheet.

Director Duerr stated that Dan St. John would present this item. Mr. St. John thanked the TAC for re-electing him as Chair for another year. He reported that Wayne Seidel was re-elected Vice-Chair of the TAC.

Mr. St. John reported that most of the discussion at the last TAC meeting was focused on the hydraulic model and the peer review process. He added that progress with the Corps is being made. He stated that the timeline for the process is on schedule.

Member Martini made a motion to accept the report and verbal update. Member Larkin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. FLOOD PROJECT MONTHLY REPORTS

Presentation on flood project events, activities, and schedules. Possible action to accept reports and/or provide direction to staff.

Director Duerr reported that reports and articles/clippings were provided in the agenda packets. She reported that at the last FPCC meeting, Mr. Carey suggested expanding the Flood Project's outreach on the JPA and future staff review of projects to the development and construction community. She reported that meetings have been scheduled with the Building and Construction Trade Council and the Reno Building Enterprise Fund Advisory Committee. Director Duerr, Mr. Aldean and Mr. Urban are also scheduled to meet with development and construction representatives from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County to discuss why our valley floods, how the hydrology works, why the Flood Project is important, as well as why it is important to review any potential impacts based on new development.

Member Martini requested that Mike Dillon, Builders Association of Northern Nevada (BANN), be involved as requested. He added that the Associated General Contractors (AGC) has also expressed interest. Director Duerr reported that she and other staff have already met with BANN and AGC and would continue to do so. She added that a flow chart is being developed to provide a process for development that will include the Flood Project. She stated that a Fact Sheet is also being developed.

Chair Smith stated he has heard that the development groups fear having to get project approval from the Flood Project Coordinating Committee, which is not the case. Director Duerr agreed that she heard the same concern and agreed it is not true. Member Martini also suggested including Associated Builders Contractors (ABC), with which Director Duerr agreed.

A. MONTHLY STATUS REPORT FOR MARCH 2010

B. LOBBYISTS' UPDATES

C. CLIPPINGS

8. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

A. MONTHLY REPORT – Beth Porter and Roger Henderson, Civil Works Branch, ACOE
Report on activities related to the Truckee River Flood Management Project including project scheduling and funding. Will include update on documents and process for Internal Technical Review currently underway. Possible action to accept the report and provide direction to staff related to Truckee River Flood Management Project scheduling and funding items as set forth in the report.

Mr. Henderson reported that the Corps is working on rights of entry to enable moving forward with geotechnical studies on PLPT and TNC properties. He stated that a scope of work will be moving forward with West Consultants on the hydraulic modeling effort. He stated that the new cost estimates and benefits are being updated. Work will also resume on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP). Member Larkin asked what brought about this change. Mr. Henderson stated that the Corps saw no reason to delay work on the LPP since it would not change. Director Duerr reported that staff has been encouraging the Corps to continue moving ahead on parts of the Flood Project that are not tied directly to the hydraulic model and economic review.

Mr. Henderson reported that Kris Mullins attended a tour of the project in March. He added that Corps staff is working with Susie Kapahee on the May 26, 2010 ASA Darcy visit. He reported that Colonel Leedy will be the new District Engineer in July.

Chair Smith again referred to the letter from USFWS and asked if it would have any affect on the restoration projects that have been completed. Mr. Henderson stated no, they would not.

Mr. Henderson reported that the Corps received a Congressional Inquiry from Senator Reid's office regarding the congressional language for the "Just Do It" project. Director Duerr explained that one of Member Larkin's favorite phrases, "get 'er done", has been re-fashioned into a name for the early-start, Corps funded projects. Mr. Henderson reported that funding requests are in the works from Senators Reid and Ensign.

B. PROJECT TIMELINE REPORT - Jay Aldean, Deputy Director, Truckee River Flood Project

Deputy Project Manager Beth Porter reported that the schedule for updating the model is finished, with the exception of finalization of the new hydraulic contract. She offered to provide the schedule once she finalizes it.

Member Martini made a motion to accept the report and verbal update. Member Larkin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS, REQUESTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Possible action to approve items for future agendas.

Chair Smith stated that next month Director Duerr's performance evaluation would be scheduled. She clarified that it would actually be due in the fall. Director Duerr reported that the last couple of FPCC meetings have been fairly brief; however, the next few meetings are expected to have heavier agendas.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Member Martini made a motion to adjourn. Member Ratti seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Niki Linn, Recording Secretary

Approved by FPCC in session on _____ 2010.



FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 14, 2010

DATE: May 10, 2010
TO: Flood Project Coordinating Committee Members
FROM: Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Management Project,
850-7420, nduerr@washoecounty.us
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON FORMING A JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY FOR THE FLOOD PROJECT

SUMMARY

Discussion and possible direction on status and timeline for the formation of a new Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between the cities of Reno and Sparks, and Washoe County to implement a new JPA (Flood Management Authority), including the financing, construction, ownership, operation and maintenance of the Truckee River Flood Management Project.

PREVIOUS ACTION AND ACTIVITIES

Note: For a list of activities prior to 2010 see the March 2010 report.

Finance Subcommittee 1-19-10: Finance Subcommittee reviews the Key Provisions of the new Cooperative Agreement for the JPA

FPCC meeting 1-21-10: FPCC approves the Key Provisions for the JPA

Council and Commission Meetings – January 25-27, 2010: Reno and Sparks Councils and Washoe County Commission receive briefings on the Key Provisions for the JPA.

Joint Meeting 2-1-10: Reno, Sparks and Washoe County all approve the Key Provisions of the JPA

FPCC Meeting 2-12-10: Update on the Drafting of the Cooperative Agreement for the JPA

FPCC Meeting 3-12-10: Update on the Drafting of the Cooperative Agreement for the JPA

BACKGROUND

As a part of our joint efforts to establish and build the Truckee River Flood Management Project, in early 2009, the governing bodies of Sparks, Reno and Washoe County determined that the best way to manage the project was to enter into a new Cooperative Agreement to create a Joint Powers Authority. A “Summary of Key Provisions” was developed for the draft Agreement. The Key Provisions were reviewed at the January 19, 2010 Finance Subcommittee and approved by the FPCC

AGENDA ITEM #5A

at their January 21 meeting. The Key Provisions for the Cooperative Agreement were then approved by all three partner agencies at the February 1, 2010 Joint Meeting.

Legal staff have now finalized a draft of the new Cooperative Agreement for the JPA. Review by technical and financial staff is about to begin and is expected to continue through April and May. Given the current timing, the JPA document is not expected to be ready in time for the May 3, 2010 Joint Meeting. Staff now recommend that the JPA document be considered for approval at the June FPCC meeting, and then circulated individually to each jurisdiction for consideration. Alternatively, the agreement could be considered for action at the July/August Joint Meeting. A proposed timeline for completion of the JPA is shown on the next page.

On March 30, 2010, staff held a conference call with FCS to discuss work items that we feel need to be enhanced as well as areas that still need to be completed. We also discussed new work that may need to be performed to allow us to have rates in place in early 2011. Additional work in the coming month will include completion of the FCS report, close out of the agreement with the FCS Group, and development of a new agreement to support the revised rate calculations this coming summer and fall.

Regarding the JPA key provisions, over the last two months it has become clear that some members of the development community either do not understand the proposal to have flood staff review developments for their impacts on flooding and the flood project, or do understand it and are opposed to it. To that end, staff and elected officials have stepped up outreach efforts on this topic. Staff are currently planning meeting two with the Paver’s Plus group, and are seeking additional opportunities to vet the agreement. Staff have also been working on a fact sheet to address frequently asked questions. A schedule of outreach meetings is under development and will be posted on the web site.

Another issue is the resolution of the UNR MOU regarding transfer of certain land assets from UNR to the Flood Project which are needed for the flood project to function. A meeting with UNR was held on May 5 to discuss the direction and progress of the MOU and its impact on finalization of the JPA. Staff subsequently amended the draft JPA language and expect to send the Draft JPA Cooperative Agreement out for staff review this week.

The timeline for approval of the JPA is listed below.

Timeline for Development of the JPA Cooperative Agreement

As of May 7, 2010

Date	Activity
February 1, 2010	Reno, Sparks and Washoe County governing bodies approve Key Provisions at Joint Meeting
February and March 2010	Legal Staff develop Draft of new Cooperative Agreement
May and June 2010	Technical and Financial Staff and Managers vet JPA Cooperative Agreement Address any community issues with staff review of new developments Complete current FCS contract and initiate new contract.

June and July 2010	Present Final JPA Cooperative Agreement for approval to FPCC Present Final JPA Cooperative Agreement for approval to the Jurisdictions Present Update on JPA to Board of Regents
July 2010	Establish and organize JPA
Summer 2010	Prepare scaled down version of project and rates that would be required. Review options for billing and collection and other administrative processes for the JPA.
Fall 2010	Update rate assumptions. Update Benefits Analyses.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact from this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the FPCC discuss the JPA development process and timeline, and provide possible direction to staff regarding establishing a Joint Powers Authority for the Flood Project.

POSSIBLE MOTION

I move to accept the report and provide possible direction on development of the Cooperative Agreement for the new JPA to implement a new Flood Management Authority.

LG:nsd



FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 14, 2010

DATE: May 3, 2010

TO: Flood Project Coordinating Committee Members

THROUGH: Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Management Project, 850-7420 nduerr@washoecounty.us

FROM: Mimi Fujii-Strickler, Flood Project Supervisor
850-7431, mfujii@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: Carmen Group Federal Lobbyist Monthly Report

SUMMARY

The Carmen Group represents an integral part of the Flood Project's overall strategy to ensure that the Truckee River Flood Management Project receives priority attention by the Army Corps of Engineers' management. The Carmen Group has effectively provided federal lobbying services to the Flood Project for the last four years and promoted our project on a daily and weekly basis with the Corps of Engineers' Headquarters staff and the Assistant Secretary of the Army. It is through the Carmen Group's assistance that our local community retains control over the project formulation process so we can effectively build our preferred plan as well as maintain an equitable cost-sharing arrangement with the Corps.

See attached Carmen Group Monthly Status Reports for April

PREVIOUS ACTION

March 2009 The Finance Subcommittee conducted their first monthly teleconference with Mia O'Connell of the Carmen Group during the Finance Subcommittee meeting.

April 2009 The Finance Subcommittee conducted a teleconference with Mia O'Connell of the Carmen Group during the Finance Subcommittee meeting.

May 2009 No Finance Subcommittee Meeting.

June 2009	The Finance Subcommittee conducted a teleconference with Mia O'Connell of the Carmen Group during the Finance Subcommittee meeting.
July 2009	No Finance Subcommittee Meeting.
August 2009	Mia O'Connell not available for the August Finance Subcommittee teleconference.
September 2009	The Finance Subcommittee conducted a teleconference with Mia O'Connell of the Carmen Group during the Finance Subcommittee meeting.
October 2009	The Finance Subcommittee conducted a teleconference with Mia O'Connell of the Carmen Group during the Finance Subcommittee meeting.
November 2009	The Finance Subcommittee conducted a teleconference with Mia O'Connell of the Carmen Group during the Finance Subcommittee meeting.
December 2009	No Finance Subcommittee Meeting
January 2010	The Finance Subcommittee conducted a teleconference with Mia O'Connell of the Carmen Group during the Finance Subcommittee meeting.
February 2010	No Finance Subcommittee Meeting
March 2010	The Finance Subcommittee conducted a teleconference with Mia O'Connell of the Carmen Group during the Finance Subcommittee meeting.
April 2010	No Finance Subcommittee Meeting

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no identified fiscal impact for this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the FPCC accept this report and provide any direction to the staff on the information presented herein.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Motion to accept the report and verbal update.

MFS:nsd



Monthly Status Report

Washoe County April 2010

During the month of April, your consultant was involved in, and advised on the following activities on behalf of Washoe County.

Flood Project Issues – Early Construction

In an effort to capitalize on the Assistant Secretary of the Army's indication that she believed elements of the Truckee River Project which were authorized in the 1988 WRDA authorization and that the Corps was currently reviewing could proceed to early construction, the consultant worked closely with Ms. Duerr, her staff and staff of Senator Reid to execute a positive strategy. Along these lines, the consultant developed the key detailed points along with Ms. Duerr, for the legislative language providing for advance construction of elements of the project, and gave these to Senator Reid's office to give to Corps Headquarters to shape a legislative draft language request to include in the FY2011 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill. The detailed points laid out a clear path to construction by the Corps without the need for supplemental documentation for one or more previously authorized features of the project. The consultant worked the details of the request with Ms. Duerr, than with Senator Reid's office to share with the Corps lawyers.

Assistant Secretary of the Army Visit

Once we firmed the date of May 26th for the Assistant Secretary of the Army to visit the Truckee River Project and meet with the locals with ASA's office, the consultant shared this information with Ms. Duerr, who began to plan. Later, during the month, Ms. Duerr advised that other Corps District's were requesting ASA's time thus reducing our visit with Ms. Darcy. The consultant went back to ASA's office and advised that the latest schedule would not allow the Truckee sponsor to show ASA Darcy enough of the project and requested a revision to her schedule to secure more of ASA's time dedicated to the project. As a result of the consultant's intervention, ASA's office rearranged Ms. Darcy's plans so that she now will be traveling by military plane, rather than commercial carrier so that she will have more flexibility and as a result will now be able to spend most of the day with the sponsor on the Truckee River Project. This was excellent news that the consultant shared with Ms. Duerr.

FY 2011 Appropriations

As a result of the consultant's efforts with Ms. Duerr and Senator Reid's office, the Senator requested \$20 million for design and early construction of key elements of the

project. This very significant appropriations request was submitted by Senator Reid to the Appropriations Committee. The Senator's staff also advised the Committee that it would be submitting directive language to ensure the Corps used the funding appropriately. Senator Reid's office asked the consultant to join him in a meeting with Senate Appropriations Committee staff to brief staff on the need for the funding and the language. We will be meeting shortly.

The consultant is staying in close touch with the Appropriations Committee to advise them about the latest developments on the project.

Community-Based Solutions

In discussions with Ms. Duerr and her staff, we identified the upcoming ASA visit as a very significant event which we should use to change the tempo and outlook of the Corps experience for the sponsors and the community. As a result of delays and frustrations with the Corps' cumbersome planning process, we discussed recommending to ASA Darcy during her visit to the project that she consider using the Truckee River Project as a policy experiment to focus on community outcomes, rather than Corps' process. That rather than have the Corps redundantly pursue several planning paths for no obvious benefit, that the Corps just focus its limited and cost-shared dollars on the solution the community wanted and not on a phantom plan. In an effort to flesh this idea out, the consultant drafted a concept paper for Ms. Duerr to review as a basis for a presentation to Ms. Darcy for returning the program back to the communities and their needs.

Washington Visit Dates

While we had firmed plans for a Washington visit in May, this ultimately could not work for our electeds schedules. Therefore, we are awaiting further word from Ms. Duerr before setting appointments.



FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 14, 2010

DATE: May 7, 2010

TO: Flood Project Coordinating Committee Members

THROUGH: Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Management Project, 850-7420 nduerr@washoecounty.us

FROM: Jay Alden, Deputy Director, Truckee River Flood Management Project 850-7470, jaldean@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: **Request approval for Truckee River Flood Project staff to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to hire one or more Structural Engineers to support the Home Elevation Program.**

SUMMARY

This item requests permission to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for structural engineering investigation, preliminary design, and cost estimation services as part of the Flood Project's Home Elevation Program TRAction Project. Up to four firms would ultimately be selected to provide engineering services to the Flood Project in an amount not-to-exceed \$300,000 for all consultants.

PREVIOUS ACTION

June 2009	The Nevada Legislature approved AB 54 to allow Washoe County and the Flood Project to award grants to individuals to assist with elevation of their homes.
November 13, 2009	FPCC adopted the Second Amendment to the Infrastructure Sales Tax Plan, which amended the flood project description (LPP) to include non-structural alternatives and the possibility of elevating homes in lieu of construction of a levee.
January 21, 2010	The FPCC approved the Truckee River Flood Project Home Elevation Program as a TRAction Project in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 for Phase I.
April 27, 2010	The BCC approved \$2,000,000 for Phase I of the Home Elevation program and the First Reading of the Ordinance to amend Chapter 40 of the Washoe County Code to add new Sections 40.450 through 40.460 creating the Truckee River Flood Protection Financial

Assistance Program to provide financial assistance to owners of public and private property in certain areas in order to make such property resistant to flood damage.

BACKGROUND

The Home Elevation Ordinance was first heard on April 27, 2010 and a second reading and public workshop is scheduled for the May 25, 2010 Board of County Commissioners meeting. If the ordinance is approved, it will be important to move into the implementation of the program quickly so that homes may be elevated this summer.

A preliminary budget for the Home Elevation Program of \$2 million was approved by both the Flood Project Coordinating Committee and the Board of County Commissioners. This budget includes funds to conduct surveys, perform structural analyses, make cost estimates, conduct geotechnical testing, and elevate homes.

Approximately \$300,000 of the Home Elevation budget has been set aside to fund one or more structural consultants to provide professional engineering advice to the flood project staff regarding the suitability of individual homes for elevation based on standard engineering criteria, and to evaluate proposed elevation designs and budgets. An RFQ process will be used to generate a list of up to four firms to provide the structural engineering advice. The selected firms would be on standby to provide engineering advice as needed for each approved home elevation grant.

The process would begin with an application from a homeowner for a home elevation grant. The Flood Project would task the structural engineer to evaluate each candidate home as to its suitability for elevation. If the structural engineer approves the home for elevation, and other criteria are met, the homeowner would be awarded a grant. The homeowner's designer/architect would prepare a preliminary design and provide a cost estimate for the home elevation project. The Flood Project's structural engineer will evaluate the proposed design and cost estimate. The Flood Project's structural engineer will work for the flood project on a case-by-case basis and will be precluded from providing engineering advice to a homeowner for the same project. In effect, the structural engineer will serve as the Flood Project's representative in the quality assurance program for the specific home elevation project.

Upon approval of this request to issue an RFQ for structural engineering services, staff will work with the County Procurement office to solicit firms to apply for the structural engineering investigation contract. A team composed of Flood Project partners will rank the submittals and interview the firms. One or more firms will be selected by the team and an agreement with each will be entered into between the County and the consultant.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact from approving this RFQ. The fiscal impact will come later when the Flood Project enters into a contract to hire one or more structural engineering consultants. The total cost of the aggregate contracts will be less than \$300,000. The cost of the structural engineers is a part of the overall Home Elevation Phase I TRAction Project budget of \$2 million and funds from the 1/8-cent sales tax will be used to support this RFQ. Budget authority for this RFQ can be found in Fund 494.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the FPCC accept this report and provide any direction to the staff on the information presented herein.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Motion to accept the report and verbal update.

MFS:JLA:nsd

Truckee River Flood Project - Financial Report for July 1, 2009 - April 30, 2010

Fund 211 - Services & Supplies

			83.3% of year complete			
Services & Supplies Detail:			Adjusted Budget 2010	Actual Expenditures	Actual + Encumbered	% of Actual + Encumbered Expenditures to Budget*
Professional Services			2,826,423.87	551,658.97	942,289.29	33%
Invest Pool Alloc Ex			17,540.00	11,507.08	11,507.08	66%
Service Contract			8,908.00	10,134.89	23,026.70	258%
Repairs & Maint (for purchased properties)			67,206.49	25,431.39	29,416.46	44%
Operating Supplies			1,500.00	81.95	81.95	5%
Special Dept. Expense (outreach)			30,000.00	16,422.29	16,422.29	55%
Copy Machine Expense			30,703.70	15,736.73	23,731.92	77%
Office Supplies			10,000.00	6,153.50	7,407.34	74%
Books & Subscriptions			1,500.00	1,007.25	1,007.25	67%
Postage				39.76	39.76	
Express Courier			2,000.00	724.95	724.95	36%
Other Expense			1,721.33	3,229.72	3,229.72	188%
Printing			12,000.00	1,148.96	1,285.45	11%
Licenses & Permits			1,000.00			0%
Dept Insurance Deductible			150.00			0%
Network & Data Lines			16,800.00	14,666.76	17,466.76	104%
Telephone Land Lines			11,984.00	6,472.58	6,472.58	54%
Seminars & Meetings			4,000.00	3,076.00	3,076.00	77%
Auto Expense			4,000.00	1,240.59	1,240.59	31%
Cellular Phone			3,500.00	1,648.61	1,648.61	47%
Dues			1,000.00	1,127.00	1,127.00	113%
Advertising			20,000.00			0%
LT Lease-Office Space			102,194.56	85,162.00	85,162.00	83%
Food Purchases			3,000.00	955.53	955.53	32%
Utilities (for purchased properties)			46,800.00	36,110.87	36,110.87	77%
Water/Sewer (for purchased properties)			22,400.00	14,289.49	14,289.49	64%
Natural Gas (for purchased properties)			43,500.00	46,724.71	46,724.71	107%
Equip Srv Replace			2,764.92	2,604.10	2,604.10	94%
Equip Srv O&M			1,571.95	1,409.23	1,409.23	90%
Equip Srv Motor Pool			300.00			0%
ESD Fuel Charge			1,056.11	982.13	982.13	93%
Property & Liability			6,017.00	5,014.20	5,014.20	83%
Travel			30,000.00	10,274.93	10,274.93	34%
Equipment Non-Capital			20,000.00	8,727.95	8,727.95	44%
TOTAL SERVICES & SUPPLIES			3,351,541.93	883,764.12	1,303,456.84	39%

* At this point in the year (83.3% complete), Actuals *and* Encumbrances total about 39% of planned budget



FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 14, 2010

DATE: May 3, 2010

TO: Flood Project Coordinating Committee Members

THROUGH: Naomi Duerr, P.G., Director, Truckee River Flood Management Project, 850-7420 nduerr@washoecounty.us

FROM: Jay Aldean, Deputy Director, Truckee River Flood Management Project, 850-7470, jaldean@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: Update on the Regional Hydrologic Model

SUMMARY

Since approval by the Board of County Commissioners of the Phase 1 contract for development of the regional hydrologic model on 2-10-09, the consultant has completed the DRAFT version of the report deliverable. The question of which model will be selected and how it will be used have become of great interest within the development and engineering communities and is a frequent topic among gatherings of these individuals. The goal of this staff report is to update the FPCC on the progress of model development and recent events among the community of design professionals.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS

- BCC Meeting 3-14-08:** Presentation of the Truckee River Flood Management Project budget including \$1,000,000 for developing the Regional Hydrologic Model.
- FPCC Meeting 4-11-08:** FPCC approval to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to firms for the development of a regional hydrologic model.
- BCC meeting 5-13-08:** BCC approval to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to engineering firms for the development of a regional hydrologic model for the flood project.
- 6-27-08:** RFQ for Regional Hydrologic Model is released
- 6-23-08:** Statements of Qualifications submitted to Washoe County by interested engineering firms.

FPCC Meeting 1-21-09: FPCC approved an agreement with Manhard Engineering for the development of a regional hydrologic model.

BCC meeting 2-10-09: BCC approved an agreement with Manhard Engineering for the development of a regional hydrologic model.

BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION

Corps Requirements

In order for the local sponsors to enter into a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the design and construction of the Truckee River Flood Management Project, the local sponsors must have developed a regional floodplain management plan with the intent to implement it. The plan needs to define a local sponsors' actions and responsibilities to prevent or mitigate changes in the watershed hydrology that result from new development or alterations to land use which might degrade the effectiveness of the flood project facilities and lower the level of flood protection provided by the project.

Model Study

In January 2009, the FPCC, and subsequently the Board of County Commissioners, approved an engineering contract with Mandard Engineering to develop a tool that will have the capability to assess the impact to flood project facilities from changes in land use in areas as small as five acres, and then predict any resulting hydrologic impacts. This tool or hydrologic model must also be able to determine changes in peak runoff flow rate, changes in runoff volume, and changes in the timing of the peak events for flows entering the Truckee River and Flood Project facilities in order to enable evaluation of impact.

It is crucial for the model ultimately selected to be accepted by the community of design professionals who practice the art of development design and engineering, and that it performs given tasks with speed and accuracy. Currently there is significant interest in the building and development communities over the potential capabilities of this model and the skill required for operation.

As presented to the FPCC, the first phase of this project entails comparison of three different modeling methods using a small watershed as a pilot study. At the end of the pilot study, the consultants would propose the use of the model which best met the criteria below:

- Ease of Use - May be run with minimal staff set-up time (ability to quickly make changes to modeling parameters and construction)
- Precision - Distinguishes between developments as small as 5 acres
- Provides output on storm peak flow, volume and timing
- Can be applied to the entire Truckee River Watershed above Vista

Public Review

The consultants' draft report was completed and a link was placed on the Flood Project's website to make it available for all to review. Staff notified the engineering community which included the President of the ASCE chapter in Reno, the Builders Association, AGC, known professional practitioners in the field of hydrology and hydraulics, and the Public Works and

Community Development (Planning) Directors and appropriate staff from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County. An invitation was sent to all of the noted agencies and individuals which included the web link to the report and a request to review and provide comments on the report and the methodologies used. Approximately one month later a meeting was scheduled with invitations sent to the same individuals to review and discuss the comments with all of the interested parties. That meeting was held on April 20th.

The review meeting was well attended by the municipal and county staff, but was only sparsely attended by the community of engineering professionals, with no attendees from the building community. An introduction and a short review of the need for the model was provided by Flood Project staff and a presentation was made by the consultant providing highlights of the information acquired during the study. The floor was opened to all to ask questions regarding the model, the conclusions, and related topics. Minutes were taken during the meetings; three sets of comments were received from members of the community.

During the meeting it was suggested that even though three modeling methods were evaluated during the study, one additional method should also be considered. Flood Project staff are now proceeding with development of an amendment to Manhard's scope of work to have the additional requested item completed. Eventually, each of the comments will be addressed in the final document and the Flood Project's Project Management Team will select a model and modeling method, and proceed into Phase 2 of the project by expanding the selected model into other areas of the Truckee River Watershed both within the County and in California.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact from this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the FPCC discuss the process of development of the hydrology model and provide possible direction to staff.

POSSIBLE MOTION

A motion to accept the staff recommendation is sufficient.

NSD/jla



FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 14, 2010

DATE: May 7, 2010
TO: Flood Project Coordinating Committee Members
FROM: Jay Aldean, Deputy Director, Truckee River Flood Management Project, 850-7470, jaldean@washoecounty.us
THROUGH: Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Management Project, 850-7420 nduerr@washoecounty.us
SUBJECT: **Flood Project Technical Advisory Committee Monthly Reports**

SUMMARY

The purpose of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is to bring financial, engineering, planning, and government management functions together to coordinate and vet flood project activities, and to provide technical assistance and guidance to flood project staff. With their collective expertise, the TAC analyzes issues such as project schedules, construction sequencing, proposed TRAction Projects, flood project funding and governance. Working together, the TAC's efforts have facilitated greater efficiency in synchronizing efforts to move the flood project ahead. The TAC Chair provides an oral report to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee at each monthly meeting.

Attached to this report are the April 30, 2010 TAC meeting agenda, the approved March 26, 2010 TAC meeting minutes, and the April 30, 2010 TAC attendance sheet.

PREVIOUS ACTION

A Technical Advisory Committee report has been presented at each Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) meeting since 2007.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no identified fiscal impact for this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the FPCC accept this report and provide any direction to the staff on the information presented herein.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Motion to accept the report and verbal update.

MFS:nsd

Attachments:

- 1 - TAC Agenda for April 30, 2010
- 2 - TAC Meeting minutes March 26, 2010
- 3 - TAC Attendance Sheet April 30, 2010



FLOOD PROJECT
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF MEETING
AND
AGENDA

FRIDAY – APRIL 30, 2010- 10:00 A.M.

Washoe County
Central Conference Room
1001 E. 9th Street, Bldg C
Reno, Nevada

Dan St. John, Chair
Wayne Seidel, Vice-Chair

Technical Advisory Committee Members

	RENO	SPARKS	WASHOE COUNTY
VOTING	John Flansberg Susan Schlerf Kyle West	Neil Krutz Wayne Seidel - <i>Vice-Chair</i> TBD	Adrian Freund John Sherman Dan St. John - <i>Chair</i>
ALTERNATES	Auro Majumdar (Alt)	TBD (Alt)	Kimble Corbridge (Alt)
NON-VOTING	Water Resources	TBD	
	UNR	Kevin Piper	

Pursuant to NRS 241.020, this notice has been posted at the following locations:

Washoe County Administration, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada.

Sparks City Hall - City Clerk, 431 Prater Way, Sparks, Nevada.

Reno City Hall - City Clerk, One E. First St., Reno, Nevada.

Truckee River Flood Project Office, 9390 Gateway Drive, Reno, Nevada

Truckee River Flood Project website: <http://truckeeflood.us> (Click Committees, then Meeting Agendas, then scroll down to Technical Advisory Committee), **OR** go to

http://truckeeflood.us/77/technical_advisory_committee.html

PUBLIC COMMENT: In order to conduct orderly, efficient, effective and dignified meetings that promote a governmental purpose with a governmental process, public comment may address any agenda item or other public issue that the Committee has the authority to effectuate or exercise control over. Public comment on matters beyond the Committee's scope of authority is not relevant to the Committee's business, does not invoke a governmental process nor serve a governmental purpose, and is contrary to the effective, efficient and orderly business conducted by the Committee. Each person addressing the Committee shall fill out a request to speak form, step up to the microphone when called, give his/her name, and limit the time of his/her presentation to three (3) minutes. All public comment remarks shall be addressed to the Committee as a body, and not to any member thereof. No person, other than members of the Committee and the person having the floor, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion, either directly or through members of the Committee. No questions shall be asked of the Committee members, except through the presiding officer. The Committee reserves the right to determine during its meeting, through a vote of its members, whether to allow additional public comment, limited to one (1) minute per person, on specified individual items on the agenda.

NOTES: Items on the agenda may be considered in an order different than they appear on the agenda. Unless otherwise indicated by an asterisk (*), all items on the agenda are action items upon which the Flood Project TAC may act.

The meeting facility is accessible to the disabled. Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations or assistance (e.g., sign language, interpreters or assisted listening devices) at the meeting should notify Flood Project staff at 850-7460, forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting.

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL - Determination of a Quorum**

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES -**

Approve Provisional Minutes of TAC Meeting of March 26, 2010.

4. * **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

5. * **PUBLIC COMMENT** - For all items on or off the agenda, limited to 3 minutes per person

6. **UPDATE ON THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' MODELING EFFORTS AND PROJECT SCHEDULE**

Jay Aldean, Deputy Director, Truckee River Flood Project

Discussion of progress and possible changes to the Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) hydraulic model revision effort and any expected impacts to the project schedule. Update on Corps activities for the previous month. Possible action to accept the report and/or to make recommendations to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC.)

7. **HYDROLOGY MODEL UPDATE**

Paul Urban, Project Manager, Truckee River Flood Project

Discussion of progress on Phase I of the Manhard study to select a hydrologic modeling program to develop a regional hydrologic model for the Truckee River watershed. Discussion will include input received at the April 20, 2010 community workshop on the project. Possible action to accept the report and/or to make recommendations to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC.)

8. VIRGINIA STREET BRIDGE TRACTION PROJECT AMENDMENT

Jay Aldean, Deputy Director, Truckee River Flood Project

Kerri Lanza, Project Management Team, City of Reno, Dept. of Public Works

Discussion of proposal to amend the scope of the Virginia Street Bridge TRAction Project to include environmental permitting and design of the new bridge, and increase the not-to-exceed cost by \$500,000 to \$2.5 million. Possible action to accept the report and/or to make recommendations to the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC.)

9. LAKE STREET PROPERTY DISCUSSION

Kerri Lanza, Project Management Team, City of Reno Dept of Public Works

The property located at the southwest corner of Lake Street and First Street is available for purchase. A portion of this property may be needed for the improvement of the Lake Street bridge proposed in the LPP. This item is to discuss a strategy associated with this acquisition.

10. RECLAIMED WATER STUB – MILL & MCCARRAN PROJECT

Kerri Lanza, Project Management Team, City of Reno, Dept. of Public Works

NDOT will be resurfacing McCarran Blvd. near its intersection with Mill Street in 2011. This item is to discuss the merits of installing a reclaimed water stub needed for the restoration and recreation elements of the Living River Parkway prior to the resurfacing project.

11. REVIEW FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE DRAFT AGENDA

Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Project

Possible action to make recommendations to the FPCC on any of the Flood Project Coordinating Committee draft agenda items (see attached agenda). Action may include clarification, addition or removal of agenda items, and recommendations to the project staff or the FPCC regarding any of the listed or proposed agenda items.

12. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS, REQUESTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Review and discussion of the TAC meeting dates set for May 28th. Possible action to approve items for future agendas and/or change meeting dates.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Truckee River Flood Management Project

**TRUCKEE RIVER FLOOD PROJECT
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
Friday, March 26, 2010
10:00 AM

Approved MINUTES

Dan St. John, Chair
Wayne Seidel, Vice Chair

Technical Advisory Committee Members

	RENO	SPARKS	WASHOE COUNTY
VOTING	Susan Schlerf Kyle West John Flansberg	Neil Krutz Wayne Seidel- <i>Vice Chair</i> TBD	Adrian Freund Dan St. John - <i>Chair</i> John Sherman
ALTERNATES	Auro Majumdar (Alt)	TBD (Alt)	Kimble Corbridge (Alt)
NON-VOTING	Water Resources	TBD	
	University of Nevada Reno	Kevin Piper	

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – Determination of a Quorum 10:00am

A regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Kimble Corbridge at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 26, 2010 at the Washoe County Central Conference Room at 1001 E 9th Street, Building C, Reno, Nevada.

Committee Members Present: Acting Chair Kimble Corbridge, Susan Schlerf, Kyle West, John Flansberg, Auro Majumdar, Neil Krutz, John Sherman and Kerri Lanza.

Flood Staff Present: Naomi Duerr, Director; Jay Aldean, Deputy Director; Danielle Henderson, Natural Resource Manager; Paul Urban, Project Manager; Lisa Diebler, Pat Winans and Greg Salter, Deputy District Attorney.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the agenda was moved and seconded. It passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Provisional Minutes of TAC Meeting of February 26, 2010 -

Approval of the February 26, 2010 meeting minutes was moved and seconded. It passed unanimously.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Melissa Faigeles was introduced to the TAC as the newest Flood Project employee to assist Danielle Henderson. Her title is Natural Resource Planner. She was welcomed to the project by the TAC.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT – Limited to three minutes per person

Acting Chair Kimble Corbridge opened the meeting to public comment; there was no one present to comment.

6. ELECTION OF TAC OFFICERS

Discussion occurred as to whether new TAC elections should be held in absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair. It was decided during the discussions to proceed with the agenda item and Dan St. John was nominated to serve another term as TAC Chairperson and Wayne Seidel was nominated to serve another term as the Vice-Chair by Susan Schlerf, the second was by John Sherman. It passed unanimously.

7. UPDATE ON THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' MODELING EFFORTS AND PROJECT SCHEDULE

10:15am

Jay Aldean, Deputy Director of the Truckee River Flood Project, lead the discussion on the progress and possible changes to the Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) hydraulic model revision effort and any expected impacts to the project schedule. Paul Urban, Project Manager, explained fixed models and flood plains to the Committee. Urban said that the main concern is that future external technical reviewers won't approve the current Corps' model even with the expected model fixes. West Consultants is doing more stringent work to rework the model and have it complete by October.

Auro Majumdar asked what would happen if West and the Corps don't agree on their models. Urban explained that the Project would use the model created by West to generate flood plains. The Corps is making an additional effort to complete the flood plains in half the time.

Neil Krutz expressed concern over wasting resources to correct a problem that the Project has struggled with before with the Corps. Deputy Director Aldean explained that the Project has nearly an unlimited supply of help with the consultants, enabling them to complete the work before the Corps team.

A discussion ensued about the timeline and finalization of the ETR. Urban further explained that the efforts are being timed so that West completes the first run of flood plans as the Corps works on theirs on the October 31st timeframe. Aldean added that Flood Project staff's goal is to have a backup to ensure authorization for 2012.

Further discussion ensued among the Committee about expectations of the Corps, gratitude for their added resources but skepticism about reaching the deadline.

Susan Schlerf suggested that Aldean explain to the Board visually why the aforementioned decision will help with the schedule sooner than later, and include the item with the FPCC agenda under the Corps report.

John Flansberg motioned to accept the report with the condition that it is presented to the FPCC explaining the benefits of the proposed process and maintaining and potentially improving the schedule. Susan Schlerf seconded the motion. Neil Krutz opposed over concern of two existing models. The motion passed with seven yeas and one nay.

- 8. FY 10-11 BUDGET: ACCOMPLISHMENTS, GOALS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES 11:04am**
Director Duerr gave the update with a slideshow presentation, providing specific examples, of the Flood Project's Fiscal Year (FY) 09-10 accomplishments and performance measures, and proposed FY 10-11 activities for the approved FY 10-11 Budget.

The slides included additional accomplishments for Fiscal Year 09-10, funds and goals for FY 10-11 for Fund 211 and Fund 494. John Sherman recommended Duerr provide names instead of number titles to the aforementioned funds for future presentations and adding numbers for performance measures.

On the final slide, Kerri Lanza recommended adding the number of jobs created. . Acting Chair Corbridge suggested adding photos to contrast the work that has been completed with what it looked like prior. The photos of the final outcome should be larger, he said.
District Attorney Greg Salter recommended replacing the word customers with "people affected by flooding".

Director Duerr informed the Committee that the Project had been approached by the Bureau of Reclamation concerning our interest in providing local funding match for a study on the Truckee River Watershed. The Bureau offered to do the work for the Project to study the impact of climate change and its effects on the water yield and expected flood flows.

- 9. REVIEW FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE DRAFT AGENDA**
The Committee was invited to make recommendations to the FPCC on any of the Flood Project Coordinating Committee draft agenda items. Flansberg offered to give the presentation in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair.
- 10. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS, REQUESTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS 11:27am**
Committee members reviewed and discussed the TAC meeting date set for April 30th.

Discussion ensued among committee members about possibly acquisition of the former La Famiglia building on the southwest corner of First and Lake Streets.

Auro Majumdar updated the Chair on the consultant selection process for Virginia Street Bridge. The team had solicited 13 teams, which had been reduced to four firms which would return on the 31st for their interviews. Following the interviews, a firm will be taken to the City Council for recommendation on becoming the design team for the bridge.

Flansberg asked when the Committee would review the JPA process.
Director Duerr explained she would be meeting with Greg Salter and Lisa Gianoli to develop a schedule, followed by a series of meetings on the regulatory process. Duerr expects to approach the City of Reno, Sparks and Washoe County Commissioners in late May with official language on the JPA.

Flansberg requested more information on the hydrology, asking for a review of the model and how it worked on the regulatory side. Director Duerr replied that it had not been ready for the TAC without

more vetting. The TAC should see a continuation of the hydrologic model discussion at the next meeting.

Deputy Director Aldean further explained a meeting with professional hydrologists in the area would occur on April 20th to receive their comments, which will then be presented to the TAC and FPCC to provide a complete picture on the item. The meeting will occur April 20th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Community Room on Energy Way at the Water Resources Building. Aldean invited those interested to attend.

There being no further business, Acting Chair Corbridge adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Vanessa Vancour. vancour@gmail.com. 775.771.5879

Attachment 4

	5-Feb	26-Feb	26-Mar	30-Apr	28-May	Cancelled	30-Jul	27-Aug	24-Sep	22-Oct	19-Nov	30-Dec
Agency												
City of Reno												
Kyle West - Planning (Member)	x	x	x	x								
Susan Schlerf		x	x									
John Flansberg- Public Works	x	x	x	x								
Charla Honey (ALT)				x								
Kerri Lanza - Public Works (PMT)	x	x	x	x								
Auro MaJumdar (ALT)	x	x	x									
City of Sparks												
Neil Krutz - Planning (Member)	x	x	x	x								
TBD												
Wayne Seidel - Public Works (Member)	x	x		x								
TBD (ALT)												
Washoe County												
Adrian Freund - Planning (Member)	x			x								
Dan St. John - Public Works - (Member) Vice Chair	x	x		x								
John Sherman - Finance (Member)	x	x	x	x								
Kimble Corbridge - Public Works (ALT and PMT)			x									
UNR												
Kevin Piper (Non-Voting Member)												
Flood Project Staff												
Naomi Duerr - Director	x	x	x									
Jay Aldean - Deputy Director	x	x	x	x								
Paul Urban - Sr. Licensed Engineer (PMT)	x	x	x	x								
Mimi Fujii-Strickler - Flood Project Supervisor	x	x		x								
Eric Scheetz - Licensed Engineer	x											
Danielle Henderson - Natrl Rescs Manager		x	x	x								
Susie Kapahee - Public Information Officer												
Greg Salter - District Attorney's Office	x	x	x	x								
= TAC Voting Member												
= TAC Non-Voting Member												

(ALT) = Alternate

(PMT) = Project Management Team

No Longer with Organization

Q= Quorum

NQ=No Quorum



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

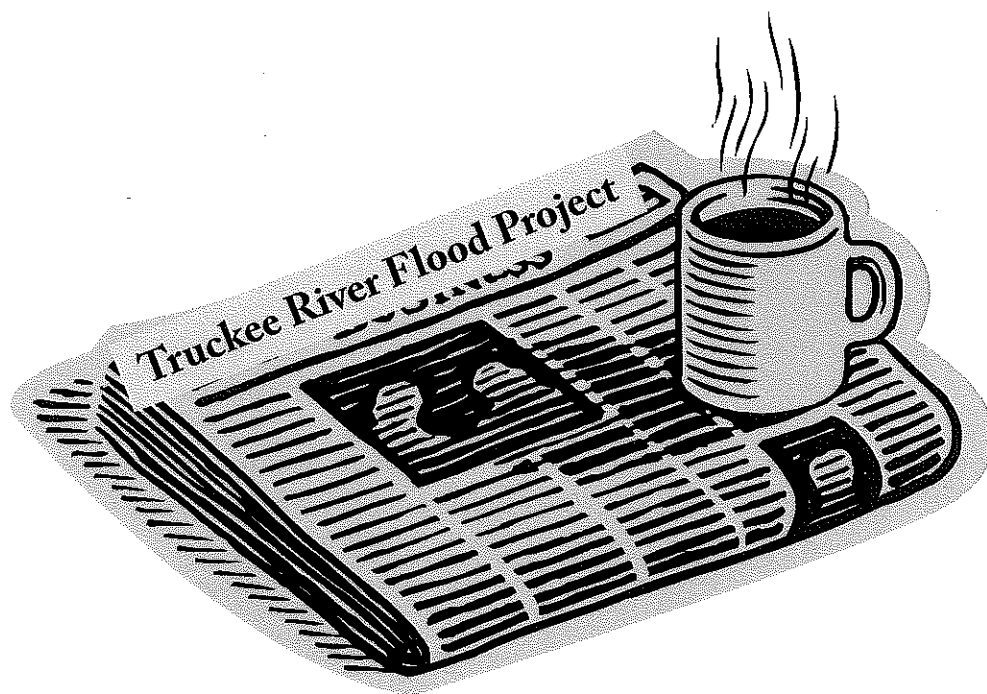
RECOMMENDATION

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.

Hot off the press



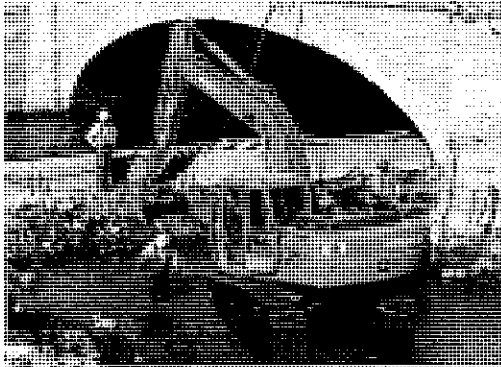
News clippings on
Truckee River Flood Project
& related topics
March 30 through
April 28, 2010

[print](#)

Flood fee agreement on track for summer 2010

by [Nathan Orme](#)

04.09.10 - 07:54 pm



RENO — The past, present and future implications of the Truckee River flood control project were all brought up in Friday morning's meeting of the Flood Project Coordinating Committee.

At present, flood plan administrators are busy preparing for this summer's finalization of the joint powers authority (JPA). The JPA will allow

for the collection of regional fees to help pay the local portion of the flood project, which is between \$400 and \$500 million. The project, with an estimated total price tag of \$1.6 billion to be shared with the federal government, is a regional effort to restore the Truckee River and build flood protection structures, all in an effort to prevent such flooding as occurred in 2005 and 1997 causing more than \$1 billion in damage.

The JPA will be an agreement among the cities of Reno and Sparks, Washoe County and the University of Nevada, Reno. The agreement will cover numerous elements of the project, including the new fee. The fee will be paid by residents and will raise roughly \$200 million to supplement monies gathered from grants and from a 1/8-cent sales tax in the county. To fund part of the North Truckee drain part of the project, Sparks residents already pay \$5.41 each month on their sewer bill. Any new fee would replace this charge for Sparks residents and administrators estimate the regional fee will be somewhere in the neighborhood of this monthly amount.

Flood project staff are also right now in a holding pattern while they wait to see what happens with budget cuts at UNR. The university is involved in the project at its agricultural facility on the east side of McCarran Boulevard. Flood project director Naomi Duerr said that to this point there have been plans to construct flood-mitigation structures to protect the facility, such as a levee around the meat-packing plant, but with the possible closure of the agriculture school due to university budget cuts that part of the plan may be eliminated.

As for the ever-present danger of future flooding, Eric Scheetz, an engineer on the flood project, talked about how he took two Army Corps of Engineers economists from Sacramento, Calif. on a tour of several businesses in the Sparks industrial area in December 2009 to give them a hands-on perspective on the local effects of severe flooding. During that tour, the group visited medical manufacturing facilities, the Ralston plant on Gregg Street, the K-Mart/Sears distribution center on McCarran Boulevard at Gregg Street and the Charles River Laboratory pharmaceutical testing facility — all of which experienced flooding in the past, Scheetz said. At Charles River, flood waters present a threat to the animals used there for testing and a threat from chemicals that might then get into

river water via the flood, Scheetz said. At the Ralston plant, Scheetz said, the group learned that if flood waters as little as one foot high get into the 13-story tower that is filled with grain used in food production, the entire food supply will have to be thrown out.

“As any prudent food company would do, if you have a question on if it’s been contaminated, you have to take precautions per requirements by (the Food and Drug Administration) but it’s also just good business practice,” Scheetz said.

The managers at the K-Mart distribution center told Scheetz that flood waters could damage the power supply for its conveyor belt system and other equipment. Such water damage could stop operations there, affecting merchandise delivered to about 47 retail stores in the West. Seeing that and the truck trailers filled with inventory really drove the message home to the Corps staff about potential damage from flooding.

“That really yet wasn’t understood by them,” Scheetz said, adding that previously reported numbers on the area’s high level of retail inventory prompted the in-person inspection by the Corps. “So when they saw that, particularly when they saw that when we were in the K-Mart/Sears distribution holding center, they saw how tightly stocked those trucks were and you could see a light go off in their head.”

A highly visible future element of the project will be the reconstruction of the Virginia Street bridge in downtown Reno. In 1997 and 2005, debris built up at the bridge and contributed to major flooding. As part of the flood control project, the 100-year-old bridge will be torn down and rebuilt with a higher arch so as to avoid debris build-up during heavy water flow while maintaining its historic look. In a report to the committee, Duerr wrote that interviews for a firm to design the new bridge took place on March 31. The recommended firm will be Jacobs, an international technical, professional and construction services firm with offices in Reno and Las Vegas.

Duerr said design on the new bridge is expected to begin in the next month or so. Funds to pay for the design will come from the 1/8-cent sales tax and funds for construction have been requested from the Corps for the 2010-2011 budget. City of Reno deputy public works director Auro Majumdar said the estimate for the design and environmental permitting on the bridge is \$2 million and the estimate for bridge construction is currently \$20 million.

Finally, as for the project’s effect on the past, Duerr showed committee members a slide depicting the sign from the old Reno City Hall building. It was found during excavation for the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony floodwall that was completed early this year near the Grand Sierra Resort. According to Duerr, the former City Hall in downtown Reno was torn down in the 1960s to “make way for progress” and the debris was dumped there in what used to be a landfill.

“But everybody forgot,” Duerr said, “and here it is 50 years later.”

The sign is being stored in Carson City.

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Civil Engineering Award for Truckee River Flood Project

The first floodwall and levee completed as part of the Truckee River Flood Project plan has received the Outstanding Project of the Year Award for 2010. This project, located at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, is a public-private partnership between the Truckee River Flood Project partners – Reno, Sparks, Washoe County and the University of Reno-Nevada, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Wal-Mart, and the State of Nevada.

The floodwall and levee system is built along the south

bank of the Truckee River from U.S. 395 to Glendale Avenue and stretches approximately 2,300 linear feet. The height ranges from four feet at the start of the levee at the U.S. 395 Bridge and ranges to eight feet near the end of the Glendale Bridge over the river.

The levee consists of over 41,000 cubic yards of soil with the floodwall coming in at over 2,000 cubic yards of concrete. The floodwall sits on top of a 12-foot-wide berm along the state-owned property. The project also features a trail along the river side.



Give local work to local workers

April 27, 2010

As a construction worker, I am proud to say I have worked many of the infrastructure and major building projects in and around Reno and Sparks that make our community one of the best areas to live.

Our construction industry has been devastated by the downturn in the economy. We are seeing an influx of out-of-state and region contractors bidding and being awarded major construction projects in the area, bringing their workers from out of the region, creating little relief for local construction workers and their families. Cases in point: Walmart, Utah-based contractor; UNR project, Arizona-based contractor; and Meadowood Mall bridge project, based in Arizona. This is based on the contractor's license.

The flood-control project will have the opportunity to employ hundreds of workers and begin to stimulate our local economy. I am tired of seeing work on local projects and local tax money going to out-of-state and out-of-region workers instead of supporting our own community.

If we are going to rebuild the economy in Northern Nevada, we must assure local workers go to work on these projects. I challenge the flood control committee to devise a plan to put local construction workers to work on local projects.

Richard Paulsen, Reno

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Sparks council awards storm drain project

by Tribune Staff

04.27.10 - 08:30 pm

SPARKS — The Sparks City Council on Monday voted to award a \$192,214.75 contract to Gerhardt and Berry Construction, Inc. for a storm drain replacement project at South Larkin Circle.

The project will replace and increase the existing drainage system before the Regional Transportation Commission re-paves these streets, which are badly in need of repair, later this year. The project will also support the North Truckee drain realignment project, which will help alleviate flooding in the city's industrial area.

© dailysparkstribune.com 2010



New Reno Wal-Mart rises quickly

By Bill O'Driscoll • bodriscoll@rgj.com • March 30, 2010

The walls are rising on a new Walmart SuperCenter on East Second Street in Reno, one of only a few new-construction projects this year amid recession, and they are rising fast.

The general contractor is from Utah, but a dozen local subcontractors are lined up for plumbing, ventilation and other needs before the store opens in late fall on Reno-Sparks Indian Colony land between Second Street and the Truckee River.

"We could have four to eight people on site installing equipment and duct work," said Bill Fisher, general manager of Fleet Heating & Air in Sparks. "We should be starting in the next couple of weeks. Anything in this current economy is a welcome project."

Walmart officials won't disclose the project's cost, but said the 186,000-square-foot supercenter will offer groceries, as well as gardening and general merchandise available in the retailer's eight other stores in eastern Nevada.

Walmart employs about 4,000 people in Northern Nevada, including Sam's Club in Reno and a 900,000-square-foot warehouse/distribution center 17 miles east of Sparks.

As the new store opens, Walmart will close its store in the Northtowne center a few miles away as planned when the new store was first announced five years ago.

"It will be a seamless transition," said Delia Garcia, Walmart spokeswoman in Phoenix. "We will close Northtowne one day and open Second Street the next."

Garcia said R&O Construction of Ogden, Utah, was selected general contractor in a competitive bidding process, and R&O then selected its subcontractors mostly from the local pool.

That pleased Steve Akerson, estimator at Quality Tile & Marble in Sparks which, come June, will do the flooring and tile work in the new Walmart.

"Absolutely. This will keep four to six of our guys busy for a good three to four weeks," he said. "A lot of them are getting hungry for work."

The area was inundated in the 1997 New Years flood, but work on a flood-control levee along the river has been completed, said Steve Moran, economic development director for the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

He said the supercenter will front to the west and be visible to motorists on the U.S. 395 freeway.

Garcia said the new store, as with existing supercenters, will include vendors inside but no businesses have been named yet.

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FEMA corrects error in flood mapping for Riverpark

April 28, 2010

Submitted

The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) announced on Mar. 29, that portions of the Carson River Flood Insurance Rate Map covering the Riverpark subdivision in Dayton have been revised to remove several properties from the "special flood hazard zone". The effect of this revision is to recognize the actual topographic changes made to the floodplain during Riverpark's development, and to relieve property owners from the mandatory purchase of flood insurance, saving individual property owners thousands of dollars annually.

While the Riverpark subdivision was designed to remove all residential properties from the flood hazard zone, changes to the official flood maps in early 2009 failed to recognize the ground alterations completed as part of the subdivision's development. As a result, 11 properties that were outside the designated flood hazard zone when built were identified as being in the flood hazard zone. The problem was identified when property owners were notified by their mortgage lenders that flood insurance would be required since they were shown on the flood map as within the flood zone.

Upon receiving notice of the new insurance requirement, several property owners approached the Lyon County Planning Department for assistance in correcting the problem. After reviewing the situation the Planning Department determined that the new maps were incorrect due to FEMA's failure to incorporate the developer's topographic data into the Flood Insurance Rate Map. When asked to

correct the problem, FEMA responded that it was the property owners' and/or the county's responsibility to complete, at a significant cost, a new study supporting removal of the properties from the flood hazard zone. FEMA would not consider data already available and provided to them prior to the original construction of the subdivision.

Lyon County approached Senator Harry Reid's office for assistance. With Senator Reid's assistance the county was able to resubmit evidence confirming the elevation of all residential properties in the Riverpark subdivision above flood elevations shown of the Flood Insurance Rate Map. FEMA's March 29 Letter of Map Revision and Flood Insurance Rate Map Revision effectively remove all properties within the Riverpark subdivision from the Special Flood Hazard Zone.

Copies of the Letter of Map Revision have been sent to the effected property owners, who should in turn provide copies to their mortgage lender and flood insurance agent. Questions regarding these changes can be directed to the Lyon County Planning Department at 775-246-6140.

Lyon County's approval of the Riverpark subdivision required that all residential lots in the subdivision be elevated to be above the historical "100-year" flood elevation. This was accomplished by massive grading and filling of those areas of the subdivision lying within the floodplain. Subsequent to completion and build-out of those areas of the subdivision within the historical floodplain, FEMA completed a total remapping flood hazard zones in Lyon County using digital mapping technology.

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The West

Plans percolate to revive some S.F. native creeks

By JASON DEAREN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Riffing through old maps while researching a history project for San Francisco public schools, landscape architect Bonnie Sherk made a discovery: a century ago, a creek coursed where two school campuses stand today.

"There was Islais Creek, running where Balboa High School is now," Sherk said. "All of a sudden it made sense: the school's cafeteria had been flooding, and the basements of homes in this neighborhood flood during heavy rains because they're in this large watershed."

Two wells have been drilled on the school campus since Sherk's discovery a decade ago, tapping the hidden creek's water to irrigate community gardens, parks and street vegetation, while hopefully reducing the threat of floods.

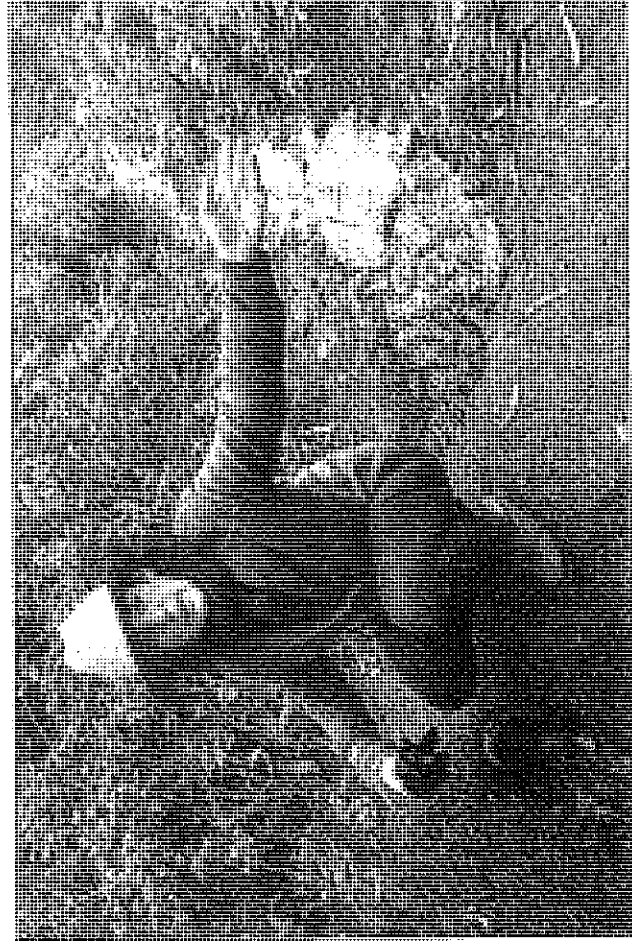
Now, as part of an estimated \$4 billion sewer upgrade, Islais Creek and other streams that last saw daylight more than a century ago could flow openly once again through neighborhoods of one of the country's most

densely built cities. Such "daylighting" of urban creeks is being embraced in other cities. Seattle, Portland, Ore., Yonkers, N.Y., Providence, R.I., as well as Zurich are among many places reopening waterways. Resurrecting old creeks can help remove hundreds of millions of gallons of storm water from sewer systems each year — meaning fewer sewage spills and cleaner water.

Covered up during and after the Gold Rush when the city's booming population created demand for housing, San Francisco's many creeks were diverted and sent underground into the sewer system. The water is mixed with the waste and sent to a treatment plant before being expelled into San Francisco Bay or the Pacific Ocean.

Each year, these rain-swollen creeks often overload the system — and about a dozen times a year raw or partially treated sewage spews into the bay and sea.

"We want to partially restore the natural hydrology of San Francisco," said Tyrone Jue, spokesman for San Francisco's Public Utilities Commission, the agency in charge of the project. "It helps the sewer system by re-



Landscaper Bonnie Sherk poses April 21 by the Islais Creek, just before it flows underground near Glen Park in San Francisco. ERIC RISBERG/AP

Still, regulators said with proper monitoring and natural filters, opening the creeks can actually improve overall water quality by reducing raw sewage overflows.

Seattle has many urban creeks, most of which have had some sections reopened or restored in recent decades. These projects have improved water quality and reintroduced wildlife into a populated urban area, said Judith Noble, a strategic adviser for Seattle Public Utilities.

Yet the process has been vexing at times and full of challenges, Noble said. Some creeks have become healthy habitat for spawning salmon and other wildlife, yet other creeks have been polluted from urban runoff, increasing fish deaths. Federal fisheries managers are studying the fish deaths, Noble said, trying to figure out the toxins responsible.

But after heavy rains, the creek filled with a lot of debris.

which runs beneath the Mission and South of Market districts, are likely the first candidates.

Both creeks flow toward the bay through densely packed neighborhoods, which could expose the water to pollutants such as auto runoff and garbage.

Berkeley in the 1980s opened a stretch of Strawberry Creek in a public park.

reducing flow, beautifies neighborhoods and can bring back natural wildlife that may once have lived in an area."

San Francisco is studying the best sites for unearthing these historic creeks, and officials said the first phase of projects would likely start in five to 10 years.

Islais Creek, which starts in the city's Glen Park neighborhood, and Mission Creek,

\$415 million Lake Tahoe Restoration Act moves forward

STAFF REPORTS,

LAKE TAHOE – A bill authorizing up to \$415 million in federal money for restoring the Lake Tahoe Basin during the next eight years gained a U.S. Senate committee's approval this week.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2010 on Wednesday, according to a statement from the committee.

If approved by the Senate, funding from the bill would be used for scientific research, projects to improve Lake Tahoe's diminishing clarity, the reduction of forest fuel loading and watercraft inspections for invasive species.

"I am pleased that this bipartisan bill to protect one of our most magnificent treasures, Lake Tahoe, has passed today through my committee," U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer said in the statement. "The Lake is emblematic of the beauty of California, and is also a major tourist attraction important to both California and Nevada. We need to do all we can to protect its famous crystal clear waters for our children and grandchildren. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to move this legislation through the full Senate."

The first Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, signed in 2000, was critical to jump starting the Environmental Improvement Program, which included more than \$1 billion in federal, state, local and private investment in the restoration of the basin.

The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2010 was introduced to the Senate by Senator Harry Reid, Senator Boxer, Senator Dianne Feinstein and Senator John Ensign.

<http://www.tahoebonanza.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100422/NEWS/100429978&parentprofile=search&template=printart>

8A • FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2010

BRIEFLY

PAIUTE TRIBE TO GET CLEAN WATER FUNDING

YERINGTON — Nevada will get \$5.1 million in federal funding for clean water projects in the state, including one for the Yerington Paiute Tribe's Campbell Ranch reservation.

The Tribal Council has worked with federal agencies on the funding of the project, including more than \$587,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, \$228,000 from the Indian Health Service and more than \$1.16 million from U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

Deputy Undersecretary for Rural Development Cheryl Cook said Thursday the USDA also has committed \$1.34 million to the Panaca Farmstead Association, the utility for the town of Panaca in Southern Nevada, to revamp its sewerage system and \$2.64 million for West Wendover's expansion and rehabilitation of its water reclamation facility.

Paiutes win in water appeal

Court: Agency diverted flow of Pyramid Lake

By Scott Sonner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A federal appeals court has upheld most of a ruling that ordered a rural Nevada irrigation district to pay back billions of gallons of water that it took from a tribe decades ago.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday directed a federal judge in Reno to go back and determine how much more water the Pyramid Lake Paiutes are entitled to as a result of the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District illegally diverting flows for its own farmers and ranchers in Northern Nevada's high desert during the 1970s and 1980s.

The appellate court rejected most of the district's bid to overturn a 2003 decision that determined the water from Lake Tahoe and other reservoirs should have continued down the Truckee River to help bolster a traditional tribal fishery in serious decline.

U.S. District Court Judge Howard McKibben

Water/District undecided about asking for rehearing, lawyer says

From 1A

in Reno was correct when he determined at that time the irrigation district had "willfully failed to comply" with a 1973 agreement that divided up the water, according to the opinion Judge Mary Schroeder issued on behalf of a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit in San Francisco.

Since then, the district has made "several additional attempts to sidestep accountability" under that agreement, she wrote.

Reaction offered

A lawyer for the tribe, who hailed the ruling as a victory, said Wednesday that he is certain it will mean additional water for the tribe and perhaps as much as 75 percent more than McKibben ordered in 2003.

"The district had been thumbing its nose at the 9th Circuit, and the 9th Circuit really put its foot down and said, 'You have no business doing this, and you have to pay it back,'" said Don Springmeyer, a Las Vegas attorney representing the Paiute tribe.

"The district wanted to get Judge McKibben's ruling tossed out, and exactly the opposite happened. The court said, in fact, there is going to be more," Springmeyer

told the Associated Press.

Michael Van Zandt, a San Francisco lawyer representing the district based in Fallon about 60 miles east of Reno, said he disagrees with many of the appellate court's conclusions.

He said the district has not decided whether to ask for a rehearing before the full 9th Circuit or to make their arguments again before McKibben.

The numbers

McKibben ruled in 2003 that the district illegally had diverted 200,000 acre feet of water that should have gone to the tribe from 1974-84. That's enough water to cover 200,000 acres or 312 square miles of one-foot-deep water — a total of about 65 billion gallons.

The tribe originally sought to recoup 1 million acre feet of water.

The new ruling from the 9th Circuit directed McKibben to review the calculations used to estimate the amount of water that flowed over spillways in some years, as well as the margin of error in calculating inaccurate readings on gauges used to measure flows from irrigation canals.

Springmeyer said alterations in those calculations suggested by the appellate

court could result in an additional 150,000 acre feet being added to McKibben's original order.

"TCID is now going to have to have quite an interesting discussion among themselves about how to pay this 350,000 acre feet back," he said.

A closer look

The battle centers on the fact that more water rights have been appropriated along the Truckee and Carson rivers than the amount of water in those rivers.

As a result, Pyramid Lake has been declining for generations while farmers in the irrigation district east of Reno complain they aren't getting enough water.

Van Zandt said if the 9th Circuit ruling stands, he would "expect some kind of upward adjustment" in the amount of additional water ordered to the tribe, but he didn't know how much.

He said he was glad the 9th Circuit sided with TCID in questioning the legal basis for McKibben's order that the district pay any back interest owed in the form of water rather than money. The 9th Circuit said it was vacating that part of the judge's order, at least until he explains his reasoning in his next decision.

Court questions ruling ordering interest payable in water

BY GEOFF DORNAN
GDORNAN@NEVADAAPPEAL.COM,

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday issued an opinion questioning a district court order in the Truckee water case that interest be paid in the form of additional water to Pyramid Lake instead of money.

It sent the latest case in the nearly century-old Truckee/Carson water battle back to district court asking for an explanation of that ruling, but didn't reject the concept entirely.

"The novel issue in this appeal concerns the (district) court's acceptance of the concept of interest payable in water," the opinion states. "The judgment orders the return of water, not money, so the district court ordered interest to be paid in water."

The core of the case centers on tribal and federal claims that, from 1974-1979, the Truckee/Carson Irrigation District took more water for Fallon area farmers than permitted by the law and numerous court cases involving Truckee River water. The courts have ruled TCID must repay the tribe amounts ranging from 11,000 acre feet to 58,946 acre feet in the peak year, 1979.

The issue involves post-judgment interest to compensate for a plaintiff being deprived of the water — over and above the amount of water improperly diverted during the late 1970s.

TCID argued that interest refers only to money judgments and the district court didn't have authority to award water. District lawyers said the ruling was unprecedented.

The opinion agreed there doesn't appear to be statutory support for the concept and that "we do not believe that water interest is appropriate unless there is some factual basis forwarding more water than was originally taken so as to provide complete relief."

But the opinion gives District Judge Howard McKibben in Reno and the plaintiffs the chance to explain the ruling. It specifically directs district court to explain why water as interest is necessary, the legal basis for the award and its reasoning for setting that interest rate at 2 percent.

The opinion also asks for a recalculation of the amount of water TCID owes the tribe, saying the district court appears to have given TCID the benefit of the doubt in estimating the volume of water.

The battle over appropriation of the Truckee and Carson river waters was first filed in federal court in 1917. It has taken several different forms in several different cases over the years and continues today as the longest-running legal battle in federal court history.

The battle centers on the fact that more water rights have been appropriated along the Truckee and Carson rivers than there is water in those rivers. As a result, Pyramid Lake has been declining for generations while Fallon area farmers in the Newlands Project say they aren't getting enough water to irrigate their crops.

[http://www.nevadaappeal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?
AID=/20100421/NEWS/100429959/1070&ParentProfile=1058&template=printart](http://www.nevadaappeal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100421/NEWS/100429959/1070&ParentProfile=1058&template=printart)



UNR Ag departments still slated to close

Lenita Powers • lpowers@rgj.com • April 20, 2010

The decision to consider retaining a scaled-down College of Agriculture at the University of Nevada, Reno, doesn't mean two departments pre-veterinarian student say are key to their educations will be spared, UNR's president said today.

The departments of Animal Biotechnology and Resource Economics still face elimination, President Milt Glick said.

UNR's pre-vet program has been under the animal biotechnology department, but under the proposed reorganization, it would be under the biology department, he said.

Glick and Provost Marc Johnson had planned to close the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources, but are now negotiating with stakeholders that include the Nevada Farm Bureau and Nevada Cattlemen's Association to a smaller version of the college open.

The elimination of the two agricultural college departments are part of a major campus changes being proposed campuswide to reduce UNR's budget this fiscal year by \$11 million and by \$44 million annually for some years to come to offset the loss of state funding caused by an almost \$1 billion revenue shortfall.

Glick will present those proposed changes to the Board of Regents for its approval when the board hold its next regularly scheduled meeting June 3 and 4 at UNR.

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» TRUCKEE CANYON

**'Scenic overlook'
is no longer scenic**

Automobile travelers out of Reno on Interstate 80 east may opt to pull off the roadway at the scenic view near Patrick on McCarran Hill. There, they encounter views that are anything but scenic.

Huge industrial park warehouses, a fuel storage depot, water tanks, a stinky pet food plant and sprawling electric generating power houses distract from the once pristine lower Truckee River valley. The sad disrepair of the McCarran Ranch and the ugly degeneration of the overlook itself factor into the so-called vista.

Further, travelers from all walks of life, from all manner of faiths and from all parts of the country don't necessarily find the in-your-face glare of the Storey County brothel as scenic; rather ob-scenic.

Please lower the "scenic view" sign to half staff or replace it with a "turnout" sign. After all, we know how this once scenic view turned out.

Gary Hines, Fernley



NFWF UNDATE: Closure of first water right acquisition expected within 30 days

By Jim Sanford • Special to the MVN • April 16, 2010

nConservation & Stewardship funding applications by mid-summer

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is "completing the due diligence necessary to allow it to close on the first acquisition of water rights from a willing seller under the Walker River Basin Restoration Program".

That was just part of the information provided this week in an update from NFWF Interim Director, WR Restoration Program, David Yardas.

"This transaction is able to move forward in light of the recent decision by the Walker River Irrigation District Board to confirm the rights of individual landowners to willingly assign their beneficial interest in the District's apportioned storage water rights," Yardas said.

In absence of any unforeseen issues, it is anticipated the transaction will be completed within the next 30 days.

"NFWF is also preparing information that will be posted on the Restoration Program website (see below) to clarify the evolving acquisition process for interested parties, and we will seek to use future public meetings and similar venues to share that information directly," said Yardas.

Water Group meeting

Yardas also reported that the second technical water group meeting was held on March 11, 2010 and included "extensive representation from various agencies and stakeholders with water expertise in the basin".

"The meeting included a presentation and discussion from the USGS on the hydrology of the Walker basin, the water budget and new gages that will be installed in the coming year," he explained.

The Desert Research Institute presented various aspects of the information that was used to develop the Decision Support Tool (DST), including a breakdown of the DST datasets and a presentation of the Mason Valley groundwater model. The final presentation of the meeting looked at the results from several initial model runs that simulated the hypothetical movement/transfer of water from agricultural to in-stream use. "The intent of this technical group is to have a mutual understanding of some of the tools currently available to help advise the acquisition and leasing programs and to monitor the effectiveness of these programs," Yardas explained.

NDWR public meeting in Yerington

The Nevada Division of Water Resources has asked NFWF to provide a brief overview of the Walker Basin Restoration Program at the Division's April 20 public meeting in Yerington.

According to the Division's April 5 press release, the meeting will focus on issues related to supplemental ground water rights for those who may voluntarily choose to sell and/or lease their surface water rights.

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The meeting will include a short presentation by the Division on the nature of supplemental ground water and the limitations that apply to such water rights, and will be followed by a question and answer period.

Conservation & Stewardship funding

NFWF currently anticipates releasing an initial request for proposals (RFP) for conservation and stewardship funding within the next two months. The RFP will outline funding priorities and other applicable eligibility requirements and conditions. The deadline for applications is anticipated to be mid-summer.

Research Update

Yardas also reported that NFWF is working with researchers at the University of Nevada, Reno and the Desert Research Institute "to finalize a scope of work for the funding allocated by Congress for additional research".

"A prior letter agreement is already allowing time-sensitive work to proceed, and it is anticipated that researchers will be able to commence all remaining work within the next month or two," he added.

Tour paid by non-federal funds

Three NFWF board members and senior leadership toured the Walker basin on March 24 in order to learn about the various issues associated with restoration of Walker Lake.

"The on-the-ground portion of the tour helped garner additional support from board members and senior staff for the efforts of the Walker Basin Restoration Program," said Yardas. "Importantly, the entire tour was paid for with non-federal funds, conserving Restoration Program funds for the purposes intended by Congress."

The Walker Basin Restoration Program now has a presence at <http://www.nfwf.org/walkerbasin>. This website provides information about the program and will be the site where future RFPs for the program will be posted.

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WRID Board takes no action on request to revisit motion

By Jim Sanford • Special to the MVN • April 16, 2010

nLocal farmer says he feels blindsided, horse is before the cart.

A request to revisit one March 19 action taken by the Board of Directors of the Walker River Irrigation District denying the right of individual farmers to sell storm water and groundwater held in trust by the District to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for use at Walker Lake was met with no action at the April 7 director's meeting in Yerington.

What turned out to be a lengthy discussion came on an item not agendized for the WRID board session but broached by Mason Valley farmer/rancher Bryan Masini under the Public Participation portion of the agenda.

"I want to emphatically state that I hate seeing Smith Valley against Yerington, I hate seeing farmer against farmer. I'm as strong as any of you in not liking what the federal government does," opened Masini, "but the fact is that historically in the West, when they (government) sue for water, they end up winning rights from farmers."

Masini said he fears at some point, area farmers are in jeopardy, under the public trust, of losing water to the government, which "would affect every one of us adversely."

Saying he wanted to get the issue "off my chest," he said he does "not see why we're fighting each other when we now have the means and the opportunity to possibly settle something for once. Whether you

agree with me that we should sell water or not, how many of you have lawsuits on your desk?"

Masini added that he has no desire to "just give in," and he pointed to a meeting two days previously when he met with District staff, one board member and attorneys to discuss the issue.

"I keep coming back to the question, 'Why did the vote go that way (at the March 19 meeting)?' Sorry, I didn't get an answer"»...If there was a reason I had been given the other day, I would not have showed up here today."

The farmer/rancher said the board action "has ramifications" and charged that he felt he was "blindsided."

"I called in on the Wednesday before the meeting, everything seemed fine," he added.

"We have this chronologically screwed up. There's 10 deals on the board (which all seek to sell decree, storage, associated flood rights and any possible district well water) and three or four or more to come," Masini said. "We are right to the point of having some of these sales take place and then"».

"I believe we had the ability to negotiate (with NFWF), but we threw the horse before the cart. We started the litigation before the negotiations," he said.

Masini explained that NFWF's request involving associated flood rights called for those to be quantified. "We stood together and said it could not be quantified. I look at my water use for the year. The truth is it's quantified. It may not be quantified on what you deserve when you buy a ranch, but it's quantified on your card.

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"This seemed like a put up deal," Masini stated. "We believe in personal property rights, and financially, this is the biggest thing that has ever hit here. This thing, if negotiated correctly, could be a boom for this area.

"Why would the board want to take control of that?" he asked. "Historically, it has traded hands; and now you tell us that you're in control of it. Why at this point?"

He told the directors that NFWF noted the "red flag" sent up by the votes and said the nonprofit entity created by an act of Congress now may be looking to purchase land in addition to water rights.

"They want to buy all the land in Wabuska because the water comes with the land," the farmer/rancher said. "They changed the scenario.

"If I thought you were gaining something (by the vote), okay; but instead I think you red-flagged the whole deal. I wish you would revisit it. I know you are not going to. I can tell by the agenda," said Masini.

"I wish what we all said for three years had happened. We sell them a little water, and now we talk about moving it; and we move it where it helps the farmers, not hurts us. We move it where they don't sue us out of what we have," he continued.

"I am told it doesn't matter, it's going to go to litigation anyway. I don't want to go to litigation if we don't have to," Masini said.

He turned to the District's demonstration water leasing program and said, "You're not getting anywhere on your leasing program, are you? You know why? Because they're (NFWF) not stupid."

"Why are we not using all our tools?; and that is: Does the farmer have the right to sell his water? Historically, it's been done all along....And is the water going to move? Water is going to go down to the lake. Is it going to save the lake? I don't think so, but it is what it is. No farmers have won a wholesale victory in the West. Nobody wins."

Masini added, "Does that mean I just want to just give it to them? No, but they brought the means to buy it. Now with one vote, we turn it into chaos.

Why did we put a wedge in here right now? Revisit this, guys. Let some of these deals start to take place, and then use every tool, every type of water, as a negotiation. Just because Masini sells, water does not get it to the lake. That's the next step.

"Why does this group suddenly want control? It was the wrong thing to do. It was a set up deal. I feel like I was blindsided," he commented, adding that he was advised to quit claim his water sales.

"That has been explored. It's already on the table. These people are here; it's what they do. I don't want to start going around you guys and trying to do things that way. You've forced us into a corner now.

"Bad decision, gentlemen. We had the means and opportunity to possibly get something done for every farmer, every one of us. Now I don't know where it goes," Masini concluded.

Questions & Answers

Following that presentation, Chairman Bob Bryan said the flood water and well right permits are considered "benefits the District owns," and that they do not involve a personal right, but a District right.

Director Steven Fulstone also said the actions came to "protect the District's interests for farmers in the District."

WRID Attorney Gordon DePaoli clarified that NFWF is "not the federal government" and explained again

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that storage water had gone through an apportionment of benefits process that clears the way for assignment to each parcel, while flood water and underground water uses have not, and thus cannot be assigned to specific land. The board has approved sale of the storage rights, but refused to confirm the individual right to sell flood water and ground water the District holds in trust.

"I think the most serious litigation, from a litigation standpoint, is the Walker Lake litigation," DePaoli added. He said there is no connection between "what NFWF is doing and resolving that litigation yet," and that there is nothing in any of the efforts to date to make either the lake or the Walker River Paiute Tribal litigation "go away yet."

"I disagree with you that we have introduced chaos into the process, and I am very hopeful there will be opportunities to resolve some of those issues, including the issues you are asking the board to revisit," he continued.

DePaoli said that in conversations with NFWF, "I think that there is going to continue to be discussion on this issue and figure out if there is a way to make it work for everybody, but I can tell you without hesitation their goal is have some specific chunk of that water be put in the river and sent to Walker Lake."

Masini asked the attorney if he felt confident the District could win a lawsuit over the issue; and DePaoli responded, "If the District says we are not going to allow any of that water (state certificated rights) to be changed to Walker Lake, you bet I think we're going to win."

Retired Mason Valley farmer Tom Bobrick addressed the board to say he recalled a time when two California attorneys told the District they were confident that a decision to drain a reservoir would be upheld in court.

"We drained the reservoir. It cost us \$2½ million because we were advised by attorneys. Look deeply into it, if you're doing right or wrong. We will be sued over this," Bobrick said.

Federal Watermaster Jim Shaw informed the group that he has the authority at his discretion to distribute flood waters.

"What we have is a definite break because the irrigation district has a permit from the state that takes care of that flood water and gives you (as a farmer) that right up to four acre feet of that flood water. The lake also has a right for a portion.

"The thing you have to understand is that when I am involved with that, what it says is that I have to be able to furnish water for everything prior to ever being any flood rights. It gets really complicated. There isn't a priority." Shaw added. He said the U.S. Board of Water Commissioners might have had a problem if the District had allowed the sale of flood waters because "it belongs to everybody. It belongs to the guys in Antelope Valley, it belongs to guys in Bridgeport Valley, it belongs to guys in Smith Valley, Mason Valley, and actually the Tribe has a right to flood waters."

"The problem I have is that water has never been quantified. There is no quantification as to flood waters as far as my office is concerned. I don't know how you can pay for a pig in a poke," Shaw concluded.

Masini charged, "But you are giving out the water that they (board) just took total control of. You're out. As far as they are concerned, you are out. I know you don't want to hear that, and I know they don't want to hear it. They took control of it."

"You can't get the water to the lake unless they say so," agreed Bobrick. "You've got no right any more."

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Smith Valley's Gary Garms reviewed a little of the history of the Walker River Basin Project from the time the Nevada System of Higher Education opened public forums and talked about water right purchases. "They said, 'Any willing seller, don't fret. This is going to be a simple process. We will take possession of whatever waters you want to present us. We will pay you for it, and we will assume any risks as far as all the processes to get it to Walker Lake.'"

"This meeting should not be happening today, or at least this discussion," Garms said. "The process is out of order. It's gotten all mixed up. It was going to be a simple process. If you wanted to participate, you could. They would take the risks."

Bob Bryan interjected, "That process has changed hands three times."

"Why are we here today if in the past, we were so well assured the process was in place, and we were never going to argue amongst us?" asked Garms.

NFWF's local Program Director Joy Giffin was asked by Garms if that entity intends to bring forth an organized process that is more acceptable to everyone so it speeds up the process; and her response was, "That is something we are working hard on. This is not good for any of us."

The session concluded after longtime Mason Valley farmer David Fulstone commended the efforts of the WRID board, saying, "I'm satisfied with the board and what they are doing. I don't think they've done a thing to hurt anybody. We all get excited over things, You watch, it'll all smooth out. I just want to back the board, and I hope everybody else does."

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FEMA releases some properties in Dayton from special flood hazard zone

April 16, 2010

Submitted Story

The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) announced on March 29 that portions of the Carson River Flood Insurance Rate Map covering the Riverpark subdivision in Dayton have been revised to remove several properties from the "special flood hazard zone." The effect of this revision is to recognize the actual topographic changes made to the floodplain during Riverpark's development, and to relieve property owners from the mandatory purchase of flood insurance.

While the Riverpark subdivision was designed to remove all residential properties from the flood hazard zone, changes to the official flood maps in early 2009 failed to recognize the ground alterations completed as part of the subdivision's development. As a result, eleven properties that were outside the designated flood hazard zone when built were identified as being in the flood hazard zone. The problem was identified when property owners were notified by their mortgage lenders that flood insurance would be required since they were shown on the flood map as within the flood zone.

Upon receiving notice of the new insurance requirement, several property owners approached the Lyon County Planning Department for assistance in correcting the problem; and after reviewing the situation, the Planning Department determined the new maps were incorrect due to FEMA's failure to

incorporate the developer's topographic data into the Flood Insurance Rate Map.

When asked to correct the problem, FEMA responded that it was the property owners' and/or the county's responsibility to complete, at a significant cost, a new study supporting removal of the properties from the flood hazard zone; and FEMA would not consider available data provided to them prior to the original construction of the subdivision.

Lyon County approached Senator Harry Reid's office for assistance, and with that assistance, was able to resubmit evidence confirming the elevation of all residential properties in the Riverpark subdivision above flood elevations shown of the Flood Insurance Rate Map. FEMA's March 29 Letter of Map Revision and Flood Insurance Rate Map Revision effectively remove all properties within the Riverpark subdivision from the Special Flood Hazard Zone.

Copies of the Letter of Map Revision have been sent to the affected property owners, who should in turn provide copies to their mortgage lender and flood insurance agent. Questions regarding these changes can be directed to the Lyon County Planning Department at 775-246-6140.

Lyon County's approval of the Riverpark subdivision required that all residential lots in the subdivision be elevated above the historical "100-year" flood elevation. This was accomplished by grading and filling of those areas of the subdivision lying within the floodplain. Subsequent to completion and build-out of those areas of the subdivision within the historical floodplain, FEMA completed a total remapping of flood hazard zones in Lyon County using digital mapping technology.

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Editorial: Talk of an eastside highway has gone on for long enough

April 16, 2010

Long-time Truckee Meadows residents can be excused if they thought that all of the talk about the "southeast connector" (once known as the Tahoe Pyramid Link) had ended and that the Regional Transportation Commission was preparing to move on with the project.

After all, more than 40 years after the highway that would take traffic around the east side of the valley first appeared on planning maps, the RTC approved an alignment for the controversial route in 2008.

And the RTC plans to complete the portion of the highway through the old Double Diamond and Damonte ranches this summer when an \$8.2 million project ties the southern end of Veterans Parkway into the Geiger Grade. Only about a dozen years will have passed since the RTC and Nevada Department of Transportation held an open house to show off the proposed alignment of that intersection.

Yet, when that project is completed, Veterans Parkway still will dead-end to the north at South Meadows Parkway, and there's no telling when it will be carved around the Huffaker Hills, past Rosewood Lakes and into Sparks to connect to Interstate 80 ... or whether it will happen at all.

The residents of the east side of the Truckee Meadows deserve to know for sure which it will be -- once and for all.

- o off there are still questions about why a route around the east side of the valley (the

west side, too, but that's even more controversial) is needed, the next two summers should provide the answers. Construction is expected to begin in earnest on Monday on the first of two projects sure to tangle northbound traffic on U.S. 395 from Neil Road to the Spaghetti Bowl. Already the orange cones are out and the 55 mph speed limit signs are up for a project that will add a lane to ease the worst congestion, between Moana Lane and the off-ramp to Sparks. Later this spring, work will begin on the new Meadowood Way interchange, a project that itself has been 30 years in the planning. Regular users of that stretch of highway have few alternatives, however; all require use of surface streets, none of them direct routes, and all littered with traffic lights. That's because we still funnel all of our north-south traffic and east-west traffic along two major highways that meet in the middle of the valley with a single interchange. If anything happens to disrupt those routes -- construction, for instance -- there's no other way, thanks to the poor planning that allowed the McCarran ring road to be interrupted by countless lights, driveways and intersections, and thanks to the lack of a final decision on the southeast connector. Ideally, the RTC board would approve the plan for the connector and develop the plans necessary to minimize its impact on residents, flood protection, wildlife and important open space. If the board isn't willing to do that, however, it should say so. The discussions have been going on since 1965 -- 45 years -- and they don't appear to over yet. Enough already. It's time to either push ahead with the project or erase the route from the maps.

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The end of the already-built Veterans Parkway, foreground, will connect with the Mount Rose Highway at the beginning of the long-proposed southeast connector road. (David B. Parker)

SNAPSHOT

TOPIC: Southeast connector

OUR VIEW: Construction on U.S. 395 will show why the alternate route is needed.

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2A • THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010

Official: Entire link needed to reduce traffic congestion

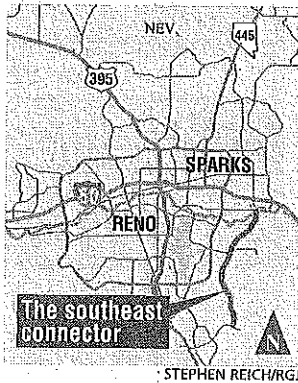
By Jeff DeLong
jdelong@rgj.com

The long-debated north-south route through the Truckee Meadows must be built in its entirety to produce significant reductions in traffic congestion, regional transportation officials said in a new report.

And the so-called southeast connector road would not make another controversial Regional Transportation Commission project — an \$87 million upgrade of the intersection of Pyramid Highway and McCarran Boulevard — unnecessary, officials said.

“Both projects are needed and are unrelated to each other,” said Jack Lorbeer, RTC acting planning director.

Officials said the road, proposed in 1965 as the Tahoe-



Pyramid link, is a needed alternative to U.S. 395. The commission of elected officials from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County will discuss the project Friday.

In November 2008, the RTC approved an alignment for the road, 9 miles from the base of Geiger Grade, through Rosewood Lakes and across the Truckee River

IF YOU GO

WHAT: The Regional Transportation Commission discusses the southeast connector road.

WHEN: 9 a.m. Friday

WHERE: Regional Transportation Center, 2050 Villanova Drive

to end in Sparks.

The completed part of the project is Veterans Parkway, 4 miles that terminate at the north of South Meadows Parkway. This summer, the RTC plans an \$8.2 million project to link the southern end of the road with Geiger Grade.

Officials are divided on how to proceed with the final 5 miles of road from South Meadows Parkway northward into Sparks.

“I’m still not sold on the whole thing being necessary,” Reno Councilman and RTC Chairman Dave

Aiazzi said in February.

Alternatives include building only a portion of the road — possibly just the Truckee River bridge with a road to connect to Mill Street extended east. That could help motorists commuting between Sparks, Spanish Springs and Reno, Aiazzi said.

Lorbeer told the board the whole road is needed to produce the desired benefits.

“You have to complete the entire link,” Lorbeer said. “Without completing the entire connection, the benefits are not realized.”

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April 14, 2010

Army Corps of Engineers Said to Err on Flooding Risk

By MATTHEW L. WALD

An attempt by the Army Corps of Engineers to correct old data on water flows in the Mississippi may have led to underestimates of the current risk of flooding along the river, scientists argue in a new study.

The study argues that a change in the way water flows were measured, dating from the 1930s, mistakenly led the corps to make downward adjustments in data from the 1800s and early 1900s. That in turn is leading to underestimates of the risk of flooding today on the Mississippi between the Ohio and Missouri Rivers, and to inadequate preparations by government agencies, said Nicholas Pinter, a geology professor at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and the author of the new report.

"If you lower the numbers for the size of past floods, then present and future risk is reduced proportionally," he said in a telephone interview.

But Gary R. Dyhouse, a hydrologist who retired from the Corps of Engineers in 1999 but still consults for that agency on Mississippi flood questions, said the adjustments in the data made by the corps were correct. Flow tests using scale models determined that actual water flows in floods occurring in 1844 and 1903 could not possibly have been as high as were estimated using instruments of the time.

For example, the contemporary estimate for the flood of 1903 was 1.3 million cubic feet per second, but later estimates put it below 800,000 cubic feet per second, he said. The estimates for a flood in 1844 had been similarly lowered.

"Obviously we'll never know what the exact discharge was in 1844," he said.

The study was published March 26 in the journal *Hydrological Processes* and released widely on Wednesday by Dr. Pinter.

The problem with the data arose in the mid-1930s, when responsibility for daily measurements shifted from the Army Corps of Engineers to the United States Geological Survey. The corps took the measurements from boats in the river, but the geological survey took them from a bridge.

Five tests were conducted in the 1930s and 1940s, Mr. Dyhouse said.

“These measurements showed the corps was overestimating flows, in their methods, compared to the U.S.G.S.,” he said.

But Mr. Pinter said that after looking at additional data, he found that the older method underestimated flows, rather than overestimating them.

Disputes over the accuracy of old measurements go back more than 30 years. But some other experts gave credence to Mr. Pinter’s work.

Brandon J. McElroy, a research scientist at the geological survey, said that Mr. Pinter had turned to data that had long been ignored and that his conclusions were reasonable.

“Based on the references that he brings forward, those are all completely justified in my view as a scientist,” Mr. McElroy said.

Mr. McElroy was a peer reviewer of the study by Mr. Pinter, and said he was not speaking as a representative of the geological survey.

Donald C. Sweeney II, associate director of the Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Missouri, St. Louis, said it was important to get the numbers right, “because the more accurately you can portray the risks of flooding to people, the more rational and well-based decisions they can make.”

Historical data should not be altered, Mr. Sweeney said, “unless there’s a darn good reason for adjusting it that you can show beyond a shadow of a doubt.”

**America's Newspapers**

State's water planning should begin at the source -- the Sierra

Sacramento Bee, The (CA) - Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Author: Joseph Day and Richard McIntyre ; Special to The Bee

The Sierra Nevada is the foundation of California's water system and needs attention. The Sierra supplies 65 percent of all water used by the people of the state, from the clean, safe water that comes from your faucets to the water used to grow crops.

Without its broad granite presence looming over the Central Valley, what most of us take for granted as "the way things are" would not be.

Without the Sierra, irrespective of what laws were passed, the state, federal and regional water projects that supply San Francisco, the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California simply would not exist -- and neither would the San Francisco Bay Delta.

For millennia, the Sierra has served as a barrier to storms rolling east from the Pacific. The high peaks "stack up" winter storms, causing rain and snowfall to drop here in California, making the Sierra the largest water storage facility in the State.

The average Sierra snowpack dwarfs the capacity of all of the dams and reservoirs we now have or anticipate building. Nature knew what it was doing; the meadows and forests of the Sierra provide natural storage for our water, releasing it slowly over time and providing us with clean water. Without the Sierra, there is no Bay Delta, there is no great valley agriculture, and California would be limited in its water supply -- for any purpose.

The Sierra snowpack is a natural reservoir; its deeply incised watersheds act as nature's arteries, carrying rainfall and melted snow to the Bay Delta and other regions of the state. Those watersheds carry the names of California's most famous rivers: the Sacramento, Feather, American, Yuba, Stanislaus, Mokelumne, Owens, Tuolumne, Kings and San Joaquin, among others.

Often ignored in the political wrangling over water is the importance of this "natural infrastructure" in our statewide water system. The system of water storage and transport we describe was not made by man, but by nature. Dams, pipes and tunnels can only do what nature allows them to do. Without the Sierra to quench California's thirst, we would have much less clean water to lay claim to for any purpose. Much attention and legislation has recently focused on the Bay Delta and the need for cities, farms and fish to have "co-equal" protection and priorities for investment. Lost in that statement is the need to protect the very source of our clean water, the Sierra.

It is all too easy for downstream urban residents and farmers to take the Sierra and its key role in California water for granted. Completely overlooked by those water consumers is the fact that a tiny portion of the state's population is charged with stewarding and protecting water supply and quality for tens of millions of residents and the nation's largest agricultural economy. The focus on the Delta and the water bond in the press ignores an irrefutable fact: that funding for critical Sierra headwaters restoration projects is being pushed to ever-lower priority levels, leaving the meadows, forests and communities of the Sierra high and dry. It is said that "water flows uphill to money." It is time for the opposite to be true. It is time for investment in our natural infrastructure in the Sierra to be made a priority by using funds from previously voter-approved Propositions 50 and 84.

Others have said much about the problems in California's water system and it need not be repeated here. What does need to be said is that we must manage our entire water system and not just one piece of it. That begins where the water originates.

Professionals planning for California's water future in the Department of Water Resources have recognized this connection between upstream and downstream, between the Sierra and San Diego, Yosemite and San Francisco. The latest version of the State Water Plan Update calls for a watershed management strategy and includes a forest management strategy developed with the active involvement of the U.S. Forest Service. This systemwide thinking is a positive element and one we hope the Department of Water Resources will continue to

develop.

Much of the recent talk has been about the Delta crisis and what to do or not do about it. For those on the periphery of those discussions, as well as those in the center where the pressure is greatest, we urge you to pause now and then, and look to the Sierra. There is a quiet message in those snowcapped peaks. The sound of cool, clean, running water should not be taken for granted.

Joseph Day, left, is board president of the Tuolumne Utilities District, and Richard McIntyre, right, is affiliated with the Sierra Water Workgroup, a network of diverse groups working to protect, enhance and restore the Sierra water supply.

Caption: RANDY PENCH / Bee file, 2008 The majestic Sierra Nevada's snowpack is a natural reservoir that stores water for use throughout the state.

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America's Newspapers

City plan for houses in Natomas is a joke - CITY AND BUILDER NEED TO ACCOUNT FOR HOMES BUILT IN THE FLOOD ZONE

Sacramento Bee, The (CA) - Tuesday, April 6, 2010

Sacramento has a new proposal on what to do about homes built in violation of federal rules in the high-risk flood zone of the Natomas basin. It doesn't pass the laugh test.

The city proposes to paint sealant on 10 illegally built homes to make the walls watertight up to 5 feet and have temporary shields available to install on doors and windows.

The problems with this proposal are numerous. The Army Corps of Engineers considers the "seal and shield" method to be practical only where "flood depths are low (no more than 2 to 3 feet)." Why? Because of water pressure on walls and from underneath the foundation, "walls may collapse, floors may buckle, and the home may even float."

Further, painting on sealant up to 5 feet has no relation to actual flood depths expected in the Natomas basin. With a levee breach, a flood would put the basin under 20 to 25 feet of water.

For obvious reasons, the "seal and shield" solution does nothing to reduce flood insurance premiums. In the high-risk Natomas AE zone, the city estimates it would cost about \$87,500 a year for premiums. The city is proposing that the builder take out private insurance for nine of the 10 homes that are occupied.

The other option is to elevate the homes about 16 feet -- dropping the cost of insurance premiums to \$400 a year.

The cost to "seal and shield" the 10 homes would be about \$12,400 per house; elevating them would cost about \$285,500.

A cheaper solution, not considered in the city's report to FEMA, might be for city and builder to work out a deal to buy back the nine occupied houses (which ranged in price from \$249,000 to \$302,500), sealing the unoccupied homes until levee upgrades are done.

It should be the city and the builder who bear the burden of the violations, not the homebuyers. The city says it has fixed the building permit process to prevent future violations in the flood zone. Now it needs to find the right solution for the people living in nine houses that never should have been built. These folks deserve something better than a "seal and shield" fiction.

Memo: EDITORIALS / Views of the editorial board

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Page: A14

Index Terms: EDITORIAL

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America's Newspapers

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER

Water now flowing freely again**San Francisco Chronicle (CA) - Wednesday, March 31, 2010****Author: Carolyn Jones, Chronicle Staff Writer**

Six months after the court-ordered release of water from a Central Valley dam, the San Joaquin River is now reconnected with San Francisco Bay, a major development in the river's long-term recovery and re-establishment of chinook salmon populations.

The river, 64 miles of which had been choked into a dusty wasteland after the Friant Dam was built northeast of Fresno in the 1940s, is now flowing along its historic channels, merging with the Merced River, pouring into the delta and emptying into the bay.

"People are kayaking, sunbathing with their ghetto blasters, swimming. Six months ago it was all sand," said Chris Acree, director of Revive the San Joaquin, a Fresno nonprofit group that's been working to restore the river. "It's great to see the river running again."

The water releases started six months ago, as part of a long-fought settlement among the Bay Institute and other environmental groups, the federal government and Central Valley farmers.

Mostly dry stretchesThe San Joaquin River, California's second-longest river, was dammed for flood control and to provide water for farmers. But as it hooks through Fresno and ambles north, the river was mostly dry in two sections, totaling 64 miles. The only water came from local storm runoff - much of it tainted with fertilizers, pesticides and other agricultural residue - and occasional releases from the dam after heavy snowmelts.

When the river dried up, the fish population did, too.

"If you want to screw up a river, the San Joaquin is a perfect example," said Gary Bobker, program director for the Bay Institute, which helped negotiate the restoration. "It's like a horror museum."

Hoping to restore the salmon runs, in 1988 the Bay Institute, Natural Resources Defense Council and other environmental groups sued the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which operates the dam.

2006 settlementAlmost 20 years later, in 2006, the parties reached a settlement that will eventually replenish the river for the salmon, refill the aquifer below Fresno and leave more room in the reservoir for farmers. The agreement was signed by President Obama in March 2009.

Small pulses of water were released starting on Oct. 1 to re-wet the dry parts of the riverbed. On Feb. 1, the amount was increased to a steady 350 cubic feet per second, and on Monday it was bumped up to 1,100 cubic feet per second. Scientists are studying the effects on levees and channels, many of which haven't been used in decades, and by 2014 hope to see the river fully restored year-round.

Much of the dry riverbed has been littered with rusty cars, old refrigerators and other debris, Bobker said.

Birds returningBut now, at Mendota, for example, the river is 3 feet deep and 50 feet across, Acree said. The banks are lined with 6-foot lupine, and birds, including eagles, are swooping overhead.

The project will cost about \$500 million, covered by state bond funds, the federal government and increased fees on the 15,000 farmers who rely on the Friant Dam for some or all of their water.

The Friant Water Users Authority, which represents farmers from Merced County to the Tehachapis, supported the settlement because eventually the water from the San Joaquin, when it reaches the delta, will be pumped or channeled back to the reservoir for agricultural use.

"In essence, we'll get to use it twice," said the authority's manager, Ron Jacobsma. "But at this point we are very anxious to get our water back."

Friant's farmers will see an 18 percent drop in their water allotment because of the releases, he said.

Ripple effects Although this year most farmers have ample reserves, another year or two of decreased water shipments could lead to fallow fields, laid off farmhands, higher prices for produce and economic ripple effects throughout the Central Valley, he said.

"It's like when you exhaust your bank account," he said. "It might be OK this year, but it affects your stability in the future."

For the bay, a restored San Joaquin means "we have a chance to restore these salmon runs that were destroyed," Bobker said.

Salmon won't be able to pass the dam, but they will be able spawn in the hundreds of streams that trickle into the river.

"This is not going to solve the problem entirely, but it does mean we'll be able to finally begin healing this river," Bobker said. "So we're crowing right now."

San Joaquin River Length: 350 miles. Its basin covers 38,000 square miles - nearly a quarter of California - an area the size of Indiana.

Headwaters: Several points in the mountains east of Fresno.

Fish: In 1945, the year before Friant Dam was completed, 56,000 chinook salmon swam up the San Joaquin to spawn. After the dam was finished, the number dropped to zero. Fish could not swim past the confluence of the Merced River, 150 miles downstream, because the San Joaquin was dry.

Irrigation: The San Joaquin provides water for 1 million acres of farmland, producing \$2 billion in crops every year.

Source: San Joaquin River Parkway and Preservation Trust

Memo: E-mail Carolyn Jones at carolynjones@sfchronicle.com.

Edition: 5star-dot

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Index Terms:

METRO;RIVERS;WATER;DAMS;ENVIRONMENT;FISH;IRRIGATION;AGRICULTURE;RESERVOIRS; Revive the San Joaquin; Bay Institute

Record Number: OT1CNPFV

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Truckee River Flood Management Project

FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT MEETING DATE: May 14, 2010

DATE: April 30, 2010

TO: Flood Project Coordinating Committee Members

THROUGH: Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Management Project, 850-7420, nduerr@washoecounty.us

FROM: Melissa Faigeles, Natural Resource Planner, Truckee River Flood Management Project, 850-7430, mfaigeles@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' MONTHLY REPORT

SUMMARY

Roger Henderson & Beth Salyers, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Project Managers, will attend the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) meeting to answer questions on the activities and accomplishments of the Corps project team over the past month on the Truckee River Flood Management Project (Flood Project). This may include, but is not limited to, information on tasks completed, issues or problems that have developed, project schedule and funding. A summary of these activities is attached.

PREVIOUS ACTION

A report by the Corps on their activities in relation to the Flood Project has been established as a standing agenda item for each meeting of the FPCC.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the FPCC accept this report as an informational item and possibly provide direction to staff based on this report.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Motion to accept the Corps report and possibly provide direction to staff.

Attachment: Corps' Study Update

ND/MF

AGENDA ITEM #9A

Attachment 1

Truckee Meadows General Reevaluation Report (Feasibility Study)
Sacramento District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Study Update for the
Flood Protection Coordination Committee
May 14, 2010

PROJECT STATUS UPDATE:

The Corps is continuing the process of redefining the National Economic Development (NED) plan and incorporating the comments from the External Technical Review teams (TetraTech, Inc. for the 2006 & 2009 economic models and David Ford Consulting Engineers for the 2006 & 2009 hydraulic models).

PROJECT PROGRESS UPDATE:

- a. No significantly new information since the last FPCC Corps report. We are still working on the fixes to both the hydraulic and economic models.
 - i. More refined details of the schedule to determine exact dates for critical milestones (GRR/EIS/BODR to formal review, AFB conference, and public release of draft EIS Chief's Report, etc.) are available and forwarded to the Truckee River Flood Project staff. These details do not include updated hydraulic modeling timelines from West Consultants.

- b. Although progress has been slowed or delayed on completing certain key portions of the General Re-evaluation Report (GRR), other areas of the GRR are still moving ahead. These are:
 - i. Real Estate –Right of Entry (ROEs) requests for installation of groundwater monitoring wells in the Vista to Wadsworth reach of the Truckee River, a topographic & bathymetric survey and geotechnical borings are now being worked with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. This is in preparation for several contracts soon to be awarded.
 - ii. Economics –ETR review comments are being incorporated in the new economic models. No further activities planned until receipt of new residual flood plains.
 - iii. Cost Engineering –Still working now on updating reconnaissance level cost estimates for flood damage reduction elements (levees, floodwalls, benching, home raises, bridge raises, etc.) for the 1/50, 1/75 and 1/100 NED plans to support final selection of NED plan. Cost estimate for recreation plan (NED & LPP) has been completed, although we need to meet again with the TRFP staff on some of the costs.
 - iv. Hydraulic Engineering – An alternative has been selected for the Living River Parkway TRAction project. Technical details in support of developing a cost estimate are being coordinated through the TRFP staff (Paul Urban) for that alternative. The estimate will be broken down into individual elements (e.g. N.

Levee, S. Levee, Benching, Upstream of McCarran, Downstream of McCarran) to facilitate matching chosen elements with available funding.

Contract negotiations are in progress for the hydraulic modeling work to support the generation of residual floodplains for NED determination.

- v. Civil Engineering – Continuing the preparation of quantities for cost estimating in support of the determination of new NED. Preparing portions of the Basis of Design (required as part of the AFB!). Scopes of work are in place for in-house topographic survey of area between Marble Bluff Dam and Pyramid Lake. We are currently working with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe to obtain rights of entry – work cannot begin until those are in place.
- vi. Geotechnical Engineering – Geotechnical exploration work along the Truckee River between HWY 395 & Vista is now complete. The scope of work for the next phase was submitted 25 March to the Sacramento District's AE Services Section. Award is expected in May. This is for the additional geotechnical explorations west of Reno to HWY 395 and from Vista to Wadsworth. Rights of entry are being acquired.
- vii. Planning – Developing portions of the GRR that can be written at this time. Renewed coordination with Fish & Wildlife Service regarding fish passage and bank protection issues has now begun. We are responding to the recent letter from the Fish & Wildlife Service regarding their concerns around fish passage design, benching, etc. Beginning the development of the scopes of work for a detailed sedimentation model study.

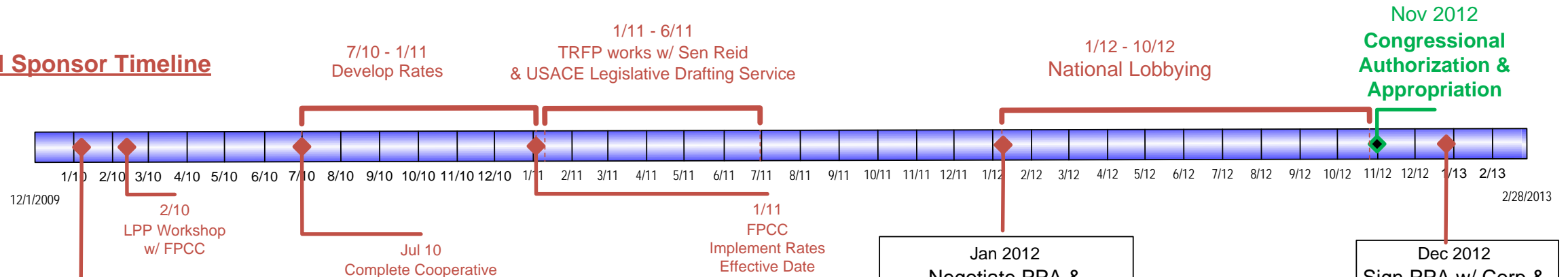
Other:

- a. SPK is coordinating with TRFP PAO (Susie Kapahee) on the upcoming ASA(CW) Jo-ellen Darcy visit scheduled for 26 May 2010.
- b. PM Salyers met with the Paiute tribe on 4 May to discuss ROEs for upcoming contracts

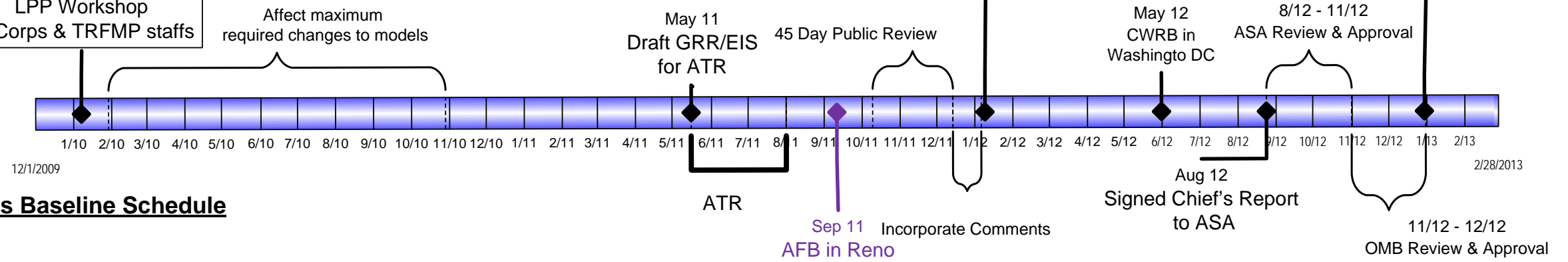
TRUCKEE RIVER FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT CORPS OF ENGINEERS' PLAN D TIMELINE COMPARISON

FPCC MEETING OF 5-14-10

Local Sponsor Timeline



Corps Baseline Schedule



AFB = Alternative Formulation Board
The EIS Alternatives are Selected at the AFB Meeting

ASA = Assistant Secretary of the Army

JPA = Joint Powers Authority

CWRB = Civil Works Review Board

ATR = Agency Technical Review (Internal)

EIS = Environmental Impact Statement

FPCC = Flood Project Coordinating Comm.

GRR = General Re-evaluation Report

ETR = External Technical Review

OMB = Office of Management & Budget

PPA = Project Partnering Agreement

Chief's Report = Summary + GRR + EIS

LPP = Locally Preferred Plan