

# Truckee Meadows Flood Control Project

## November 2004 Newsletter



### The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Invites YOU!  
to the Public Workshop Follow-up  
for the  
Truckee Meadows Flood Control Project**

**Rainbow Bend Clubhouse  
December 14, 2004  
6 pm to 7 pm**

The Corps will be presenting a follow-up to the October 26th workshop. Jerry Fuentes and Nicole Ortega will fill you in on how the Corps is working on the suggestions offered at the workshop and answer questions. We thank you again for your participation at the workshop. It is making a difference. Please join us.

### **Major Themes, Key Issues, Suggested Solutions, and Local Concerns from the October 26<sup>th</sup> Workshop**

#### **Major Themes**

- Public involvement meeting announcements need to be issued well in advance of the meeting date and the meeting location should always be centralized within the area of the anticipated most significant project impacts.
- The Truckee River hydraulic model displayed at the meeting does not appear to be calibrated to observed high water marks, such as the water elevations at the Painted Rock bridge.
- On the same evening as the Rainbow Bend public workshop, the County of Washoe approved funds to purchase property for the flood control project. Does this not mean that decisions have been made regarding the project and the public workshop input is

futile? Is the Corps favoring Washoe County over Storey County?

- Real estate acquisition issues such as the location of permanent easements for levee construction and the exercise of eminent domain by the Corps or any potential local sponsor need to be discussed thoughtfully and in a timely manner with the land owners.

#### **Issue:**

**Eliminate increase in flood flows due to flood control project through downtown and/or Truckee Meadows**

#### **Suggested Solutions:**

- Off-stream detention basin at UNR farms,
- On-stream detention basin at Huffaker Hills,
- Off-stream detention at Mustang Ranch,
- Off-stream detention at pits near Tracy Power Plant,
- On-stream detention basin just upstream of Lockwood bridge,
- Water master at Lake Tahoe to curtail flood flow releases,
- Off-stream detention at Orchard near Paiute pit,
- Divert flows into Truckee canal,
- Construct detention basins or enlarge existing reservoirs upstream of Reno.

#### **Local Concerns:**

- Local opposition to detention basin at Mustang Ranch,
- Local opposition to any upstream alternatives that increase downstream flood flows above existing condition

#### **Issue:**

**Increase hydraulic efficiency of Truckee River to convey flood flows and not cause local flooding to residences, public works, etc.**

**Suggested Solutions:**

- Deepen and dredge Truckee River from Vista to Lockwood,
- Upgrade bridges at Lockwood, McCarran Ranch and Painted Rock,
- Widen Truckee River at Lockwood,
- Clear Truckee River of debris, sand bars and snags from previous flood events,
- Move or raise railroad track to widen river.

**Local Concerns:**

- The Vista reefs is to remain,
- Local infrastructure is to remain unaffected (i.e. water treatment plant at Lockwood),
- Erosion impacts must be mitigated if additional flows sent downstream,
- Opposition to flood walls and levees along the lower Truckee River

**Issue:**

**Long Valley Creek flooding must be addressed at Lockwood**

**Suggested Solutions:**

- Upstream detention basin,
- Remove culverts at Long Valley Creek crossing and replace with bridge,
- Realign the bridge at mouth of Long Valley Creek at Truckee River,
- Stream flow controls (intermittent low weirs) on Long Valley Creek upstream of Lockwood

**Local Concerns:**

General local opposition to select and /or complete relocation or raising of homes above 100-year flood plain generated from either the Truckee River or Long Valley Creek.

**The Project Delivery Team Roles and Responsibilities – Environmental Resources**

The Corps' Environmental Resources Branch has three environmental managers/biologists working on the Truckee Meadows Project. The environmental managers' responsibilities include ensuring that the project is in compliance with all applicable Federal, State,

and local environmental laws and regulations, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and Clean Air Act. Compliance calls for coordination with regulating agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, water quality control agencies, and air quality control agencies. With compliance responsibilities, environmental managers are involved in all three phases of the project (planning, design, and construction).

In addition to compliance, environmental managers are active participants in formulating project alternatives, particularly concerning ecosystem restoration planning. Through identification of existing significant resources in the project area, the environmental manager assists the project planner and engineers in formulating project alternatives that minimize to the extent possible adverse affects to significant resources. In the event that affects to resources cannot be avoided, the environmental manager coordinates with regulating agencies to determine the appropriate mitigation and helps ensure that the mitigation is implemented. Ecosystem restoration responsibilities include identifying existing habitat values and restoration measures appropriate for the project area.

**Making Contact**

Visit our website at:

**[www.spk.usace.army.mil/projects/civil/truckeemeadows](http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/projects/civil/truckeemeadows)**

Your questions and comments on the contents of this newsletter are welcome. Please contact us at the following e-mail address:

**[TruckeeMeadows@spk.usace.army.mil](mailto:TruckeeMeadows@spk.usace.army.mil)**

Or by post at:

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**HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY!**  
**from the Corps PDT**