



**TRI SAGE CONSULTING**  
**Monthly Report**  
**Carson Truckee Water Conservancy District**

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May 11, 2021

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES- April 2021**

- 1) Continue work on guidance document and installation details for rip rap placement for erosion repairs within the 14,000 cfs flood channel. Discuss preliminary erosion guidelines with City of Reno in preparation for a river clean up effort scheduled in late May.
- 2) Discussions with USACE on the status of review of the RTC Mixed-Use Path Permit; Mike Fong provided a Notice of Complete Submittal on 4/28/21. Decision is expected within 90 days.
- 3) Set up a quarterly meeting with the USACE to allow for regular communication, as well as updates on permit status. First meeting is scheduled for 5/27/21.
- 4) Discussions with City of Reno regarding encroachments and assurances provided in the Martis Creek Agreement. City of Reno is working to address CTWCD concerns. CARES campus is scheduled to open 5/17/21 and then a large cleanup effort is scheduled along the river.
- 5) Met with TRFMA and their modeling engineers to discuss status of their HEC-RAS modeling and future collaboration.
- 6) Met with Washoe County to introduce CTWCD and discuss encroachments and assurances provided in the Martis Creek Agreement.
- 7) Continue draft of new CTWCD grant agreement.
- 8) Continue to participate in US Bureau of Reclamation's Truckee Basin Water Management Option Pilot Alternative Operational Scenarios Development working groups.
- 9) Set up kick-off meeting with SWCA regarding the One Truckee River Vegetation Management and Restoration Planning Technical Working Group. Meeting is scheduled for 5/19/21.
- 10) Review projects near river for Permit requirements; provide inundation maps for parcels. Projects this month included the construction of multiple single family residences in Verdi.
- 11) Site meeting with homeowner in Verdi regarding an unauthorized swimming hole that is being built. Evaluate options for debris removal and notice of unauthorized encroachment.
- 12) Provide input to USACE Regulatory regarding complaint received due to homeless encroachments on the river near the East McCarran bridge. Working with NDWR and USACE to respond.
- 13) Completed a spring debris removal project in collaboration with the City of Reno to focus on beaver damaged trees that pose a direct risk to the river channel. Specific areas of work include Idlewild Park near the City of Reno maintenance office and the island at Wingfield Park.
- 14) Met with the Federal Water Master to better understand the Truckee River Operations and requirements under TROA.

- 15) Transitioning engineering continues as needed; Lori Williams will transition to a support role rather than the lead on new projects and inquiries going forward.

## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

- 1) Continue to collaborate with the City Forester for the removal of hazard trees within the 14,000cfs flood channel if budget dollars permit.
- 2) Schedule meeting with City of Reno Public Works Engineer, Parks Managers and Clean and Safe Manager to discuss erosion repairs needed between Champion Park and Fisherman's Park II.
- 3) Continue working with project proponents for encroachment permit applications for RTC Mixed Use Path, USFWS fish passage projects, Arlington Bridge replacement project and other projects within the 14,000cfs flow channel.
- 4) Share modeling evaluation of the deposits within the Kayak Park Project in Wingfield Park with the City of Reno and establish a river capacity maintenance plan with the City based on this evaluation.
- 5) Work with USACE to schedule a quarterly meeting with staff to discuss status of pending permits, as well as upcoming projects.
- 6) Schedule informational meetings with potential entities with river crossings to inform them of CTWCD maintenance activities/capabilities and 408 Encroachment Permit requirements for projects along and across the river. Communicate changes to the 408 Permit process with likely applicants including the City, and utilities; update on Categorical Permission review and differences. Communicate updated fees and Fee Policy for 408 Permit Review if approved by the Board.
- 7) Request an updated copy of the City of Reno Flood Fighting Plan from the Public Works Department.
- 8) Follow up with TRFMA to find out when completed model will be made available to CTWCD by TRFMA engineers.
- 9) Work with the City of Reno to pursue a permanent encroachment permit for the West Street Plaza and any associated projects.
- 10) Continue to evaluate and discuss temporary flood control measures including flow limitations, cost, storage, installation requirements and options for West Street Plaza and Booth-Riverside Drive areas.
- 11) Continued coordination with City of Reno for 1) Flood Response evaluation and incorporation of Interim Risk Reduction Measures into their Flood Response Plan for West Street Plaza, Oxbow Park Platform and Riverside Drive, and 2) Flap-gate Installation Phase 2 needs assessment and installation project.

## **SUMMARY REPORT**

Tri Sage worked with the City Forester to remove several trees that were dead and leaning toward the river that both the City and CTWCD wanted to remove. Debris removal continued on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> behind the Riverfront Condos on Idlewild Drive. Noah's Park Tree Care rented a spider lift and removed many hazard limbs and trees with the help of City crews. The final debris removal effort will be completed on May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> to remove two trees that are dead along Idlewild Drive near the City of Reno maintenance station on the west end of Idlewild Park. The City crews will also be on site to help with that effort. The collaboration with the City of Reno has been very efficient in removing many trees that have long been on the debris removal "watch" list. We are very grateful for the working relationship with City of Reno Forester, Matt Basile.

The RTC Mixed Use Path Project application for a 408 Encroachment Permit has been approved unanimously by the District Board and is still pending review by the USACE. Tri Sage and RTC were able to make contact with Mike Fong at the USACE on April 21<sup>st</sup> and received favorable news that the final permit reviews were underway. Tri Sage worked closely with RTC to ensure the final real estate review requests were completed. Mike provided confirmation on April 28<sup>th</sup> that the information provided by RTC was satisfactory and issued a Notice of Complete Submittal. A decision from USACE is expected within 90 days of that letter. Given that schedule, RTC has stated that their path project can remain on schedule to complete in coordination with the NDOT SBX project.

The river flow model work is completed and the inundation maps for the entire jurisdictional reach are now available. The new inundation maps have been a very helpful tool in all of the engineering work required to support the District. In April, Tri Sage used the maps to respond to multiple requests for No Permit letters for new single family residences being constructed in Verdi. For those requests, Tri Sage works with JUB Engineers to create a Water Surface Elevation (WSEL) figure that shows the elevation of inundation for each specific parcel. If the proposed site plan improvements are able to stay out of the inundation boundary, a letter of No Permit Required is submitted to the City of Reno or Washoe County.

Due to the large volume of consultation requests, Tri Sage would like to discuss with the Board whether a line item should be added to the standard fee structure for permit consultations. This can be discussed at the Board meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

CTWCD was contacted by the USACE Regulatory department regarding a public complaint that they had received regarding the homeless population on the Truckee River at East McCarran. While this is outside of CTWCD's jurisdiction, USACE has asked that we collaborate with the USACE 408 representative for the Truckee east of Glendale and the Nevada Department of Water Resources to provide a cohesive response and plan of action. Discussions with USACE and NDWR are ongoing.

In March, Tri Sage identified a new apartment complex at 700 Riverside Drive that was within the 14,000 cfs inundation but had been approved by City of Reno without a 408 encroachment permit. In short, it was discovered that this property was not flagged for a 408 permit as it is considered to be

outside of the flood channel and the current FEMA maps do not indicate significant flooding, which is inconsistent with the current CTWCD model. This spurred a meeting with TRFMA to discuss model inconsistencies and collaboration. In summary, as TRFMA works to finalize their model, the current CTWCD model should be used as the best tool for identifying parcels inundated at 14,000 cfs and thus requiring a 408 permit. Tri Sage continues coordination and follow up meetings with TRFMA to ensure the final model products are consistent.

Tri Sage is currently participating in the US Bureau of Reclamation's Truckee Basin Water Management Option Pilot (WMOP) Alternative Operational Scenarios Development workshops. The workshops are being handled as a series of virtual meetings attended by a large group of river stakeholders. The purpose of the study is to evaluate opportunities and constraints to operating the reservoirs and river with more flexibility during flood events and using specific flood storage in reservoirs. Criteria for possible changes to the flood operations include no increase to flooding and no impacts to water rights and other limitations. Lori Williams has been attending these workshops on behalf of the District. The process has taken time to level set a common understanding of the baseline conditions including the current Water Control Manual criteria and other river agreements for all participants. Participants have brainstormed the changes to the system (dam modifications, gate remote operators, flood projects etc) as well as improvements in technology which have improved flood event forecasting, snow melt forecasting, flow models etc. which are available today and were not in 1985 when the current manual was published. Participants have brainstormed objectives and possible scenarios that should be evaluated for updating the Water Control Manual including ideas such as allowing more flexibility for dates at which flood space can begin to fill based on forecasts and such rather than rigid rule curves, possibly allowing flows greater than 6000cfs through Reno and other opportunities. Constraints and limitations have also been identified as well as the data that will be needed to evaluate options from both a qualitative and technical level. The study and any proposed changes to the Water Control Manual will likely take years to implement, but this process and study is a good start to future updates.

Tri Sage has had several discussions with various employees at the City of Reno regarding the 14,000cfs flood channel extents and projects to prevent camping in the river area. The most recent correspondence was a phone call on April 29<sup>th</sup> with Cynithia Esparza, City of Reno Clean & Safe Director. She confirmed that the City is taking CTWCD's letter and request for action seriously. She noted that the new CARES shelter is opening on May 17<sup>th</sup>. When that shelter opens, City of Reno is planning a large cleanup effort focused on the Truckee River. Tri Sage took an action item to make contact with Washoe County so they can provide resources to support the clean up effort. Tri Sage is also working to finalize the guidance document and supporting installation details to be distributed to the City of Reno and other agencies to aid in future erosion control projects which may deter new encroachments.

Tri Sage continues to work on a draft grant agreement that could accompany the current grant process to provide more concrete dates and requirements to fulfill the grant.

The model updates in the area of the kayak park indicate that any sediments in the flow channel at this location further reduce the channel capacity and are likely to over-top the banks/walls along Island Avenue. This finding will soon be shared with the City of Reno as a maintenance criteria for the kayak park.

The transition of the Tri Sage Team District lead from Lori Williams to Kayla Dowty is nearly complete. The inspection and reporting work and much District information has been shared through the inspection and reporting process. Transitioning will continue as requests and work comes in.

The section that pertained to the USACE April 2013 Inspection report has been eliminated from this report; and it is recommend the District continue to pursue improvements and correction of items noted in that last inspection report. The District has addressed or is currently addressing those items through its work.