



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

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September 12, 2022

**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES- August 2022**

- 1) Began scoping of the Fall 2022 debris removal project. Coordination with City of Reno Forester to identify projects to team on.
- 2) Attended 408 Permissions Listening Session to provide feedback that will help the Section 408 program make future policy adjustments and identify needs for tools and resources that support related practices.
- 3) Began preparing response letter to address 408 permit violation that occurred on June 13<sup>th</sup> for geotechnical boring associated with the RTC Arlington Bridges Replacement project.
- 4) Coordinated with RTC regarding the Arlington Bridges Replacement Geotechnical Borings 408 Application and submittal to USACE.
- 5) Coordinated with City of Reno regarding the Booth Street Siphon project. Worked with project proponent to address initial questions and requests from USACE.
- 6) Attended final technical working group for the One Truckee River Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan.
- 7) Review and provide comments on One Truckee River's 30% Draft Plans for Broadhead Park.
- 8) Follow up with City of Reno Clean & Safe Team to coordinate District funding of erosion control beneath Kuenzli Bridge near Aces Ballpark. Letter sent to City defining terms of District support. This funding request was accepted by the Commissioner's at the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- 9) Followed up with Washoe County regarding plans to address exposed rebar this fall at Ambrose Dam.
- 10) Review projects near river for Permit requirements; provide inundation maps for parcels, as required.
- 11) Plan for follow up call with USACE to discuss inundation outside of flood channel at Island Avenue, West Street Plaza and Riverside Drive.

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

- 1) Receipt of USACE Truckee River field inspection report. Follow up on any maintenance items that may be requested.
- 2) Draft letter to Waste Management regarding their responsibility to keep the river bank that they own to OHWM secure and clear of encroachments and hazard trees.

- 3) Submit revised 408 permit application for the geotechnical bores for the RTC Arlington Bridges Replacement project.
- 4) Schedule pre-application meeting with USACE and project proponent for the RTC Arlington Bridges Replacement likely in mid-October.
- 5) Finalize 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 or Reno and SWCA to possibly incorporate along with their vegetation management effort.
- 6) Continue to collaborate with the City Forester for the removal of hazard trees within the 14,000cfs flood channel if budget dollars permit.
- 7) Continue to collaborate with TRFMA and their modeling engineers to discuss status of their HEC-RAS modeling and future coordination.
- 8) 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.
- 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) Continue working with project proponents for encroachment permit applications for City of Reno Siphon at Booth Street, One Truckee River Broadhead Park, USFWS fish passage projects, Arlington Bridges replacement project and other projects within the 14,000cfs flow channel.
- 12) 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.
- 13) 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.
- 14) 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 accompanied USACE on a field inspection of the Truckee River during the week of June 13<sup>th</sup>. Federal projects are supposed to be completed every 5 years, but the last inspection of the Truckee River was in 2013. The inspection kicked off on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at Idlewild Park continuing east to the East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street bridge. The inspection continued on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at Glendale Bridge to John

Champion Park to inspect east end of the CTWCD jurisdiction. USACE will provide an inspection report indicating any areas that require maintenance. This has not yet been received. Some items expected to be noted are a larger push of the City of Reno Flap Gate program, as well as some minor channel wall maintenance in areas of degradation.

RTC has selected Jacobs as the most qualified consultant to provide environmental and engineering design services for the Arlington Avenue Bridges Replacement Project. RTC is kicking off the NEPA/Design Phase of this Project that will replace two bridges over the Truckee River on Arlington Avenue from Island Avenue to First Street. RTC would like to start construction in 2024. Tri Sage has held three meetings with the Jacobs team to provide information on the 408 permitting process, USACE's available categorical permissions, as well as history and details of the CTWCD HEC-RAS model. Tri Sage reiterated CTWCD's comments and recommendations regarding the design of the Arlington Bridge Replacement, which was sent via letter to RTC in March 2021, including the need for access to the river from the bridge deck, as well as from the river banks, and the requirement that the water surface elevation is not increased by more than 0.1 ft as a result of the project. After a call with USACE on March 1<sup>st</sup>, a follow-up call was held with the Jacobs/RTC team on March 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss specific feedback that USACE provided based on review of the Categorical Permission checklist for bridge replacements. Tri Sage scheduled a pre-application meeting with USACE on April 5<sup>th</sup>. This included the project proponents, as well as the Flood and Regulatory branches of the USACE to ensure all NEPA requirements are being met and hopefully streamline the environmental review of the permit. The lead federal agency (FHWA) did not participate in the call. During the call, it came to USACE's attention that Jacobs was preparing to complete a geotechnical boring in the river channel to support bridge design. USACE noted that a boring requires a separate 408 encroachment permit and would likely take 9-12 months to review and issue. This was a concern to the Jacobs and RTC teams due to their 2024 construction requirement in order to receive the federal RAISE grant. Tri Sage urged Jacobs to submit their CTWCD application as soon as possible, as there are likely to be 2 months of technical review before the Board will supply a Letter of No Objection and the RTC application to USACE Flood. We received the CTWCD application for the Geotech Boring and payment on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Tri Sage completed a technical review of the application and attachments and provided comments back to Jacobs/RTC on May 13<sup>th</sup>. We received a revised application on May 26<sup>th</sup>. During the USACE field inspection on June 13<sup>th</sup>, there was boring equipment set up on the north bridge of Arlington Avenue. Tri Sage approached the boring supervisor and asked if the work had a CTWCD permit, which it did not. Tri Sage has since had multiple calls with representatives from both RTC and Jacobs to understand how this work was scheduled. Tri Sage followed up with a call to USACE requesting a meeting to discuss the violation and specific direction on how to handle these incidents. Tri Sage set up a meeting with USACE on June 29<sup>th</sup>. USACE said that they do not have authority to take punitive action on unpermitted work and that decision is left to the non-federal sponsors. USACE also said that they are unable to issue a permit on work already completed, so they will only be issuing permission for the remaining bore work. We received a letter from RTC on July 5<sup>th</sup> accepting responsibility for the violation and proposing some solutions to avoid this in the future (see attached). Tri Sage has had many

communications with RTC to discuss next steps and review the updated Geotech Boring 408 application. Tri Sage has also reviewed and provided comments on the 30% design for the overall Bridges Replacement. One issue to address that will draw comment from USACE is the inundation of the bridge deck during a 14,000cfs inundation. This may require some action in the City of Reno Flood Response Plan to close the Arlington Bridge during an anticipated flood event.

Farr West Engineering is completing the design for the Booth Street Sewer Siphon project on behalf of the City of Reno. This project will require a bore under the river. A 408 Encroachment Permit will be required as the requirements applies to any projects going over, under or thru the 14,000 CFS flood channel. Tri Sage provided the current 408 application, as well as the HEC-RAS model for that section of the river, and let them know they could expect an 18 month permitting window. A siphon project was previously completed by Farr West and CoR near Kuenzli and the City Maintenance Yard. Some hurdles of that project were addressing the scour, as well as the depth of bore. Tri Sage also alerted them that it would be best to keep all excavation outside of the 14,000 CFS channel which could be difficult due to the inundation in this area on the north side of the river. An email from Kerri Lanza (City of Reno) on February 3<sup>rd</sup> indicated that “Recent inspection and camera work reveals that this sewer pipe constructed in 1958 could be failing, and the pipeline is partially plugged with debris. The City views this repair as very high; the consequence of failure would be sewage overflow.” A discussion with USACE Flood Branch was held on March 1<sup>st</sup> and they indicated that emergency projects are typically not considered and they would require a complete permit for this project. They also indicated that an increased bore depth would likely be required and suggested a pre-application meeting be scheduled to discuss with the project proponent. Tri Sage scheduled a pre-application meeting with USACE on March 28<sup>th</sup>. This included the project proponents, as well as the Flood branch of the USACE to ensure all NEPA requirements are being met and hopefully streamline the environmental review of the permit. There is no federal funding for this project and no disturbance below OHWM so USACE Flood will be the lead federal agency for the project. In general, the Farr West team was very well prepared for the call and was able to respond to all of the questions from USACE. They also included their biological and cultural sub-consultants which was very helpful for the discussion. USACE urged Farr West/City of Reno to use the HDD Categorical Permission checklist and include with their application. Tri Sage urged Farr West to submit their CTWCD application as soon as possible, as there are likely to be 3-4 weeks of technical review before the Board will supply a Letter of No Objection and the application to USACE Flood. USACE Flood indicated the permit would likely take 9-12 months to review and issue. Farr West submitted a complete application on May 20<sup>th</sup>. It was a very thorough application and the technical review was simple to complete. The Board voted to approve this permit and submit to USACE for review at the June Board meeting. A Statement of No Objection was drafted and the permit was uploaded to the FTP file share on June 30, 2022. One item of concern that may impact permit review is USACE’s Section 408 Permissions Fiscal Year 2022 Funding. USACE confirmed that funding for the USACE 408 program has run out and applications will not be reviewed until October 1<sup>st</sup> when a new fiscal year begins. Before the shutdown, the 408 permissions

group was able to provide their initial review of the application and comments/requests for additional information. Tri Sage is working with the project proponent to address these items.

Washoe County reached out to CTWCD in early June 2021 because they were contacted by the recreational paddling community about an abandoned diversion structure near Ambrose Park in west Reno. The County is concerned that the structure poses a risk for rafters and other river recreationists. They asked whether the structure could be removed and if it would require a 408 Encroachment Permit. Tri Sage contacted the Federal Water Master's office to find out the history of the structure, as well as ownership. The Water Master said that the old diversion structure was part of the old South Side Canal and that all of the water rights in the South Side Canal were transferred to the Lake Ditch (state permit 11489, certificate 4827) in 1948. Since there aren't any valid water rights served by the structure and the ditch has long been abandoned, no one "owns" the structure. Additionally, Tri Sage researched the Martis Creek Agreement and it seems that the diversion structure was likely "grandfathered" in. A field meet was held on August 18<sup>th</sup> to further discuss the project and the permit impacts. Washoe County is looking for funding opportunities to complete the project. Tri Sage followed up via phone call to USACE and confirmed that a 408 permit would not be required for removal of the structure. This information was passed on to the County. Tri Sage received an update from the County in early January 2022 stating that the County does not have capacity to move forward on this project this year. The project would have to be managed by their Capital Improvements Project team because it would be over \$100k and there is not enough staff to include this project in this year's improvements. There is support from upper management, but it is not as high of a priority as other projects. Washoe County Parks did add the Ambrose dam removal project to the 5-year CIP list and hope to circle back next year. Independently, the District received a call from Charles Albright who represents the paddling community and is very passionate about this project. He is working to request Congressional support, as well as gathering all of the agencies that have jurisdiction to understand what permits may be required for this project. The CTWCD Board is supportive of this project and asked at the January meeting if an inter-local agreement could be set up with the County for the CTWCD engineer to provide the project management and the County could provide the project funding. After the meeting, Kayla Dowty followed up with Lori Williams, and was reminded that CTWCD doesn't have the framework to support federally funded projects with payroll processing, Davis Bacon wage requirements, etc. This would be a large undertaking for the District. The Board directed at the February meeting to have legal reach out to State Lands regarding ownership of the structure. This letter was finalized and mailed to NVDSL on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Tri Sage followed up via email on May 12<sup>th</sup> and received a response that the NVDSL administrator was preparing a reply. After the June Board meeting, Tri Sage followed up with a voicemail to Ellery Stahler, NVDSL Deputy Administrator. A phone call with Ms. Stahler and Charles Donohue, NVDSL Administrator, was held on June 28<sup>th</sup>. NVDSL indicated that they did not have any additional information beyond what CTWCD had provided on the history and ownership of the structure. They suggested that the agencies work together to address the concerns from the paddling community as there are other river users that would like to see the structure remain. Discussion was held in regards to improving the safety of the structure, specifically removal of the exposed rebar. A

phone call with Dave Solaro indicated that the rebar would likely be completed in October when river flows are low. Tri Sage followed up with Dave Solaro and Alexis Hill on August 30<sup>th</sup> to confirm the work has been scheduled.

Tri Sage received an email from the City of Reno Clean & Safe Director on April 5<sup>th</sup> requesting a meeting “to discuss an area along the river that is prone to much activity, impacting the river's natural habitat.” They were referring to the area near the Kuenzli Bridge. Tri Sage attended a field meet on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Clean & Safe representatives noted that the two bridges near Aces Ballpark are consistently inhabited. These encroachments include large items like mattresses and tents that certainly pose a risk to the channel capacity during flood season. Additionally, the area under the bridges is severely eroded with large flat pads chiseled out. The City of Reno is proposing a project to rip-rap these areas to repair the erosion and deter future encroachment. They have provided a construction estimate and are requesting CTWCD support. The CTWCD Board voted to support up to \$37,500 of project costs associated with material and equipment rentals. Tri Sage provided a letter to the City of Reno specifying the funding amount, as well as the terms of the support including post project audit and required schedule to complete. The City Commissioners voted to accept the funding during their meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup>. A check will be cut and delivered to City of Reno after the September Board meeting.

One Truckee River and SWCA requested that CTWCD complete a final review of their proposed Framework Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan as CTWCD had previously participated in the technical working groups. Lori Williams provided this support on September 6<sup>th</sup> in an in person meeting for the final technical working group. OTR also requested review of their 30% design plans for the Broadhead Restoration project to confirm none of the planned improvements would require a 408 permit. Tri Sage has provided verbal comments on some changes that will need to be implemented.

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. Tri Sage has recently shared the model with several project proponents including Jacobs (Arlington Bridges Replacement), Farr West (Booth Street Siphon), Atkins (Glendale Portage Path) and SWCA (Truckee River Re-Vegetation Projects). We will continue to work with TRFMA on coordination of our HEC-RAS models.

Due to the large volume of consultation requests, Tri Sage revised the CTWCD policy to include a \$350 consultation fee for requests that come in that require determination and review of whether a 408 permit will be required. The Board approved this fee addition at the June meeting. Tri Sage will work with Mary Pat to get the updated permit fee policy posted to the CTWCD website.

Tri Sage's participation in the US Bureau of Reclamation's Truckee Basin Water Management Option Pilot (WMOP) Alternative Operational Scenarios Development workshops is complete for now. Tri Sage will share the CTWCD river model with the BoR to support their continued efforts.

Tri Sage has nearly finalized 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 help to deter new encroachments.

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 complete. The inspection and reporting work and much District information has been shared through the inspection and reporting process. Kayla continues to call Lori on an as needed basis when questions come in that require historical reference.

The section that pertained to the USACE April 2013 Inspection report has been eliminated from this report; we expect that this section will be added in again after receipt of the USACE June 2022 inspection report.