

# FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA

Service At A Higher Elevation



WASHINGTON DC LEGISLATIVE TRIP  
MARCH 2013

## CITY OF FLAGSTAFF, AZ

### RIO DE FLAG FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

**REQUEST:** Completion of the Limited Re-evaluation Report and \$3.9 million in funding for the project in the FY 2013 work plan -- \$2.9 million for repairs on the Clay Wash Detention Basin and \$1 million to complete 100% design for the Rio de Flag Flood Control Project.

**ISSUE:** The Rio de Flag Flood Control Project is a critical component to the long-range protection and continued development for the City of Flagstaff. There are several key issues which must be resolved to facilitate continued progress on this joint project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

- **Priority 1** considerations:
  - Complete the reconstruction of the Clay Wash Detention Basin (CWDB) failures (\$2.9M)
  - Completion of the 100% design and construction documents (\$1M)
  - Completion of the Limited Re-evaluation Report (LRR) (\$250K)
  - Complete Design and Construction of Phase 2A, approximately 1,300 l.f. of open channel starting at the Butler Tunnel and running upstream. (\$2.0M)
  - Contingency for completion of CWDB and design/construction of Main Stem (\$3.85m)

**Background:** The Rio de Flag Flood Control project was originally authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (WRDA 2000) and subsequently reauthorized in WRDA 2007. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) feasibility report proposes to contain the 100-year flood event through construction of 1.6 miles of flood control channel improvements, a 72-acre detention basin, property acquisition, utility relocations and three new bridges.

A significant flood event would directly affect more than half of Flagstaff's population of 65,000 and would result in damages to approximately 1,500 structures valued at over \$450,000,000.

As of December 30, 2012, the US Army Corps of Engineers have spent \$20.2 million on this project, while the City of Flagstaff has spent \$14.7 million.

**REQUEST:**

We request completion of the Limited Re-evaluation Report and \$3.9 million in funding for the project in the FY 2013 work plan -- \$2.9 million for repairs on the Clay Wash Detention Basin and \$1 million to complete 100% design for the Rio de Flag Flood Control Project to provide protection of life and safety against catastrophic flood events and promote the continued progress and development of the City of Flagstaff.

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF CONTACT:  
James Duval, Project Manager, office: 928.213-2678



# **RIO DE FLAG FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**

## **CITY OF FLAGSTAFF**

*March 2013*



### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

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### **MAJOR POINTS:**

- A significant flood event would directly affect more than half of Flagstaff's population of 65,000 and would result in damages to approximately 1,500 structures valued at over \$450,000,000.
- A single 100-year flood event would cause an estimated \$93,000,000 in economic damages.
- Implementation of the City's Downtown and Southside Redevelopment Initiative (\$100,000,000 in private funds represent the estimated investment upon the completion of the RDF project) are entirely dependent on the completion of the Rio de Flag Project.
- In addition to flood damage reduction, other benefits include elimination of mandatory flood insurance and restrictive floodplain management regulations.
- Completed construction of the Clay Avenue Wash Detention Basin in July 2009.
- Completed construction of Butler Ave. Tunneling in September 2010.
- Completed construction of the Thorpe Road Bridge in November 2012
- Construction of the remaining project elements will occur in different phases over several years. Future phases will be determined based on availability of funding and sound engineering practice.
- Design for entire project completed to 90%.

### **PROJECT GOALS FOR FY 2013:**

- Correction of deficiencies at Clay Wash Detention Basin. Estimated cost: \$2.9M
- Completion of 100% Design and construction plans. Estimated cost: \$1 million
- Completion of the Limited Re-evaluation Report (LRR). Estimated cost: \$250,000
- Construction of Phase IIA. Estimated cost: \$2.0M
- Anticipated Total Project cost according to the soon to be released LRR is estimated to be \$78.8 million with the City's LERRDs (Land, Easements, Rights of Way, Relocations, Disposal) share at \$24 million.
- Current Benefit Cost Ratio: 1.04:1 (per ERR dated 3-28-2012)

The Rio de Flag Flood Control Project is a critical component to the long range protection and continued development for the City of Flagstaff. There are several key issues which must be resolved to facilitate continued progress on this joint project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**CLAY WASH DETENTION BASIN RECONSTRUCTION:**

This \$6.5 million portion of the project was constructed by the Corps contractor with significant deficiencies.

- Arizona Department of Water Resource conducted a dam safety inspection in May of 2010 and found longitudinal and transverse cracks in the recently constructed levee.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has spent approximately \$750,000 on investigation and administration costs to identify construction deficiencies.
- The contractor has admitted fault with the construction and started reconstruction in the fall of 2012 and is scheduled to complete the work by November 2013. The contractor has not committed to full reimbursement of all costs.
- The Corps has indicated that any costs not reimbursed by the contractor will be shared project costs.
- The City should not be burdened with any additional shared project costs associated with the investigation and correction of deficiencies at the levee.

**FISCAL YEAR 2013 WORK PLAN REQUEST:**

- In December 2012 the omnibus appropriations bill was signed into law allowing up to \$214 million to be utilized for unallocated projects such as Rio de Flag. \$2.5 million was obligated to the Rio de Flag project to begin fixing the deficiencies in the Clay Avenue Basin.
- The FY 2013 expressed capability for the Rio de Flag project is \$10 million.
- The LA District and SF Regional Office requested \$3.9 million in funding for the project in the FY 2013 work plan -- \$2.9 million for repairs on the Clay Wash Detention Basin and \$1 million to complete 100% design; however, the Corps has not released the final work plan for FY 2013.
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  - Completion of the Limited Re-evaluation Report (LRR)
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- FY 2014 Goal: Request in the President's Budget and recommendation of expressed Capability of \$12.5M

**RIO DE FLAG FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT  
FACT SHEET  
CITY OF FLAGSTAFF  
*March 2013***



**Clay Wash Detention Basin**

- 3,800 foot long levee
- Height of levee varies up to 14'
- Capacity will detain up to 295 acre-feet
- \$6.5 million construction cost
- Originally Completed July 2009.
- Currently under reconstruction anticipated completion November 2013

**Main Stem**

- 8,300 Feet of Closed channel improvements
- 3,400 Feet Open Channel
- Closed channel varies (28'x16' max - 24'x9' min)
- Butler Avenue Tunnel, completed September 2010
- Thorpe Road Bridge, completed November 2012

\$78.8 million – Anticipated Total Project Cost

\$24 million – Anticipated City Estimated Share

**Large Floods** 15 documented since 1888

**Local Funding:** General Fund, Stormwater, Utilities

## CITY OF FLAGSTAFF, AZ

### RIO DE FLAG FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

**REQUEST:** Completion of the Limited Re-evaluation Report, reauthorize the project for \$92 million and add Self Administration Clause in WRDA, as well as \$3.9 million in funding for the project in the FY 2013 work plan -- \$2.9 million for repairs on the Clay Wash Detention Basin and \$1 million to complete 100% design for the Rio de Flag Flood Control Project.

**ISSUE:** The Rio de Flag Flood Control Project is a critical component to the long-range protection and continued development for the City of Flagstaff. There are several key issues which must be resolved to facilitate continued progress on this joint project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

- **Priority 1** considerations:
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A significant flood event would directly affect more than half of Flagstaff's population of 65,000 and would result in damages to approximately 1,500 structures valued at over \$450,000,000.

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**REQUEST:**

We request completion of the Limited Re-evaluation Report and \$3.9 million in funding for the project in the FY 2013 work plan -- \$2.9 million for repairs on the Clay Wash Detention Basin and \$1 million to complete 100% design for the Rio de Flag Flood Control Project to provide protection of life and safety against catastrophic flood events and promote the continued progress and development of the City of Flagstaff.

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## **CITY OF FLAGSTAFF**

*March 2013*



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### **MAJOR POINTS:**

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- Implementation of the City's Downtown and Southside Redevelopment Initiative (\$100,000,000 in private funds represent the estimated investment upon the completion of the RDF project) are entirely dependent on the completion of the Rio de Flag Project.
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**CLAY WASH DETENTION BASIN RECONSTRUCTION:**

This \$6.5 million portion of the project was constructed by the Corps contractor with significant deficiencies.

- Arizona Department of Water Resource conducted a dam safety inspection in May of 2010 and found longitudinal and transverse cracks in the recently constructed levee.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has spent approximately \$750,000 on investigation and administration costs to identify construction deficiencies.
- The contractor has admitted fault with the construction and started reconstruction in the fall of 2012 and is scheduled to complete the work by November 2013. The contractor has not committed to full reimbursement of all costs.
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**FISCAL YEAR 2013 WORK PLAN REQUEST:**

- In December 2012 the omnibus appropriations bill was signed into law allowing up to \$214 million to be utilized for unallocated projects such as Rio de Flag. \$2.5 million was obligated to the Rio de Flag project to begin fixing the deficiencies in the Clay Avenue Basin.
- The FY 2013 expressed capability for the Rio de Flag project is \$10 million.
- The LA District and SF Regional Office requested \$3.9 million in funding for the project in the FY 2013 work plan -- \$2.9 million for repairs on the Clay Wash Detention Basin and \$1 million to complete 100% design; however, the Corps has not released the final work plan for FY 2013.
- Priority 1 considerations for the project are:
  - Reconstruction of the Clay Wash Detention Basin failures (studies and construction)
  - Completion of the 100% design and construction documents
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  - Complete Design and Construction of Phase 2A; approximately 1,300 l.f. of open channel starting at the Butler Tunnel and running upstream
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# **RIO DE FLAG FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**

## **FACT SHEET**

### **CITY OF FLAGSTAFF**

*March 2013*



#### **Clay Wash Detention Basin**

- 3,800 foot long levee
- Height of levee varies up to 14'
- Capacity will detain up to 295 acre-feet
- \$6.5 million construction cost
- Originally Completed July 2009.
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#### **Main Stem**

- 8,300 Feet of Closed channel improvements
- 3,400 Feet Open Channel
- Closed channel varies (28'x16' max - 24'x9' min)
- Butler Avenue Tunnel, completed September 2010
- Thorpe Road Bridge, completed November 2012

#### **Lack of Funding**

- Because the project doesn't have a completed LRR, the project cannot be considered for the president's budget and may not be considered for the FY 2013 workplan.
- If we continue to use our current process with the US Army Corps of Engineers there may not be funding available for at least the next two FYs and, perhaps, beyond.
  - The project, like many other Corps' projects in the Country, has never been in the President's Budget.
  - The project has traditionally been funded through Congressional earmarks and that funding option has now gone away.

#### **Federal Process**

- The employees of the USACE are good, professional staff. However, they happen to work in a system that is rather severely broken.
- The process to create final plans for the project and move into a predictable construction process has taken years and there's no end in sight. The Corps estimates they still have over \$1M in work to finalize the plans.
- Projects cost have steadily gone up. Cost went from \$24M in 2000 to \$92M today – granted, there have been some changes to the design. However, these changes cannot be categorized as significant. Perhaps the most troubling aspect is the Corps inability to adequately articulate why the costs continue to go up.
- Value Engineering was completed three years ago, in order to reduce the costs in an ever escalating project budget. The City participated in a Corps Value Engineering Process using their standard model: this week-long process initially yielded results of a \$15-20M savings. VE took 14 months to complete and, in the end, resulted in \$1.8M saving. However, the inflation calculation was \$4M over that time period.
- Clay Avenue Basin - \$6M to construct. Corps is now estimating almost that much to reconstruct. Holding contractor accountable but using over a \$1M to administer project.

## **Federal Process – Continued**

- Budget - In order to get into the President's Budget a project must have a current Chief's Report. The key element to a Chief's Report is the Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR).
  - Congressman Gosar wrote a letter to OMB and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (Corps Offices in D.C.) on May 12, 2011 asking the Corps to move the project funding forward.
  - On June 22, 2011, the Assistant Secretary wrote back to Congressman Gosar stating that the LRR is scheduled for completion in September 2011.
  - As of this date the LRR is still not complete and Corps of Engineers cannot provide us with a reliable completion date thus making us potentially ineligible for the FY 2013 work plan and FY 2014 President's budget.

## **Benefit to Cost Ratio (BCR)**

- A BCR greater than 1:1 is required in order to get into the President's Budget
- A BCR greater than 3:1 gives it higher priority when competing nationally for funding
- Our last BCR calculation was just over 1:1 – but things have changed, again, since that calculation. The Project estimate went from \$78M to \$92M. We haven't seen a new BCR calculation but believe it could be under the 1:1 needed. No plans have significantly changed during the duration of the project yet its costs have increased four-fold and much faster than inflation.

## CITY OF FLAGSTAFF, AZ

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**REQUEST:** Completion of the Limited Re-evaluation Report and add Self Administration Clause provision to WRDA to complete 100% design for the Rio de Flag Flood Control Project.

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**REQUEST:**

We request completion of the Limited Re-evaluation Report and a provision to the upcoming WRDA bill to allow the project to be self-administered by the City.

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF CONTACT:  
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## **CITY OF FLAGSTAFF**

*March 2013*



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*March 2013*



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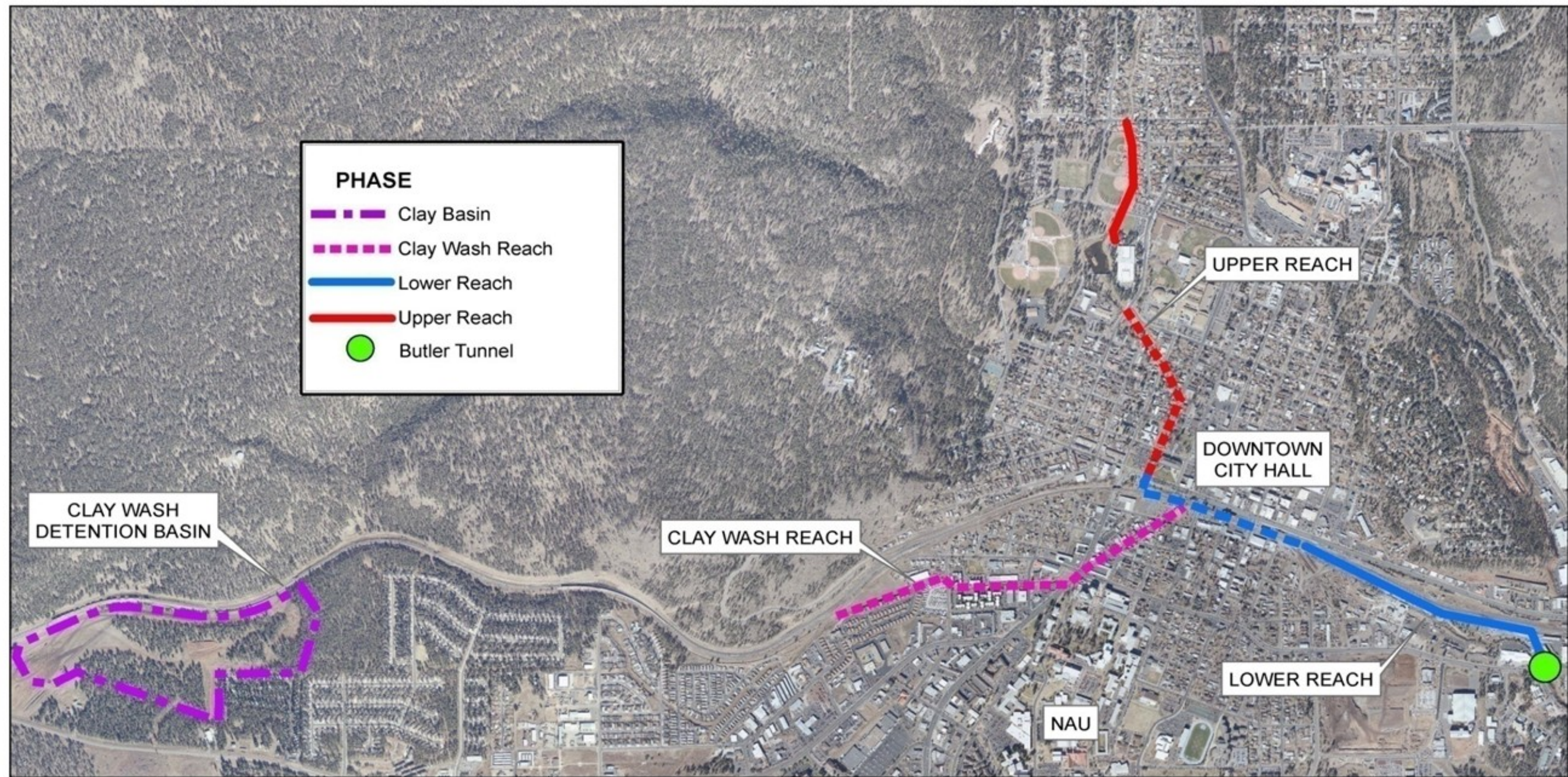












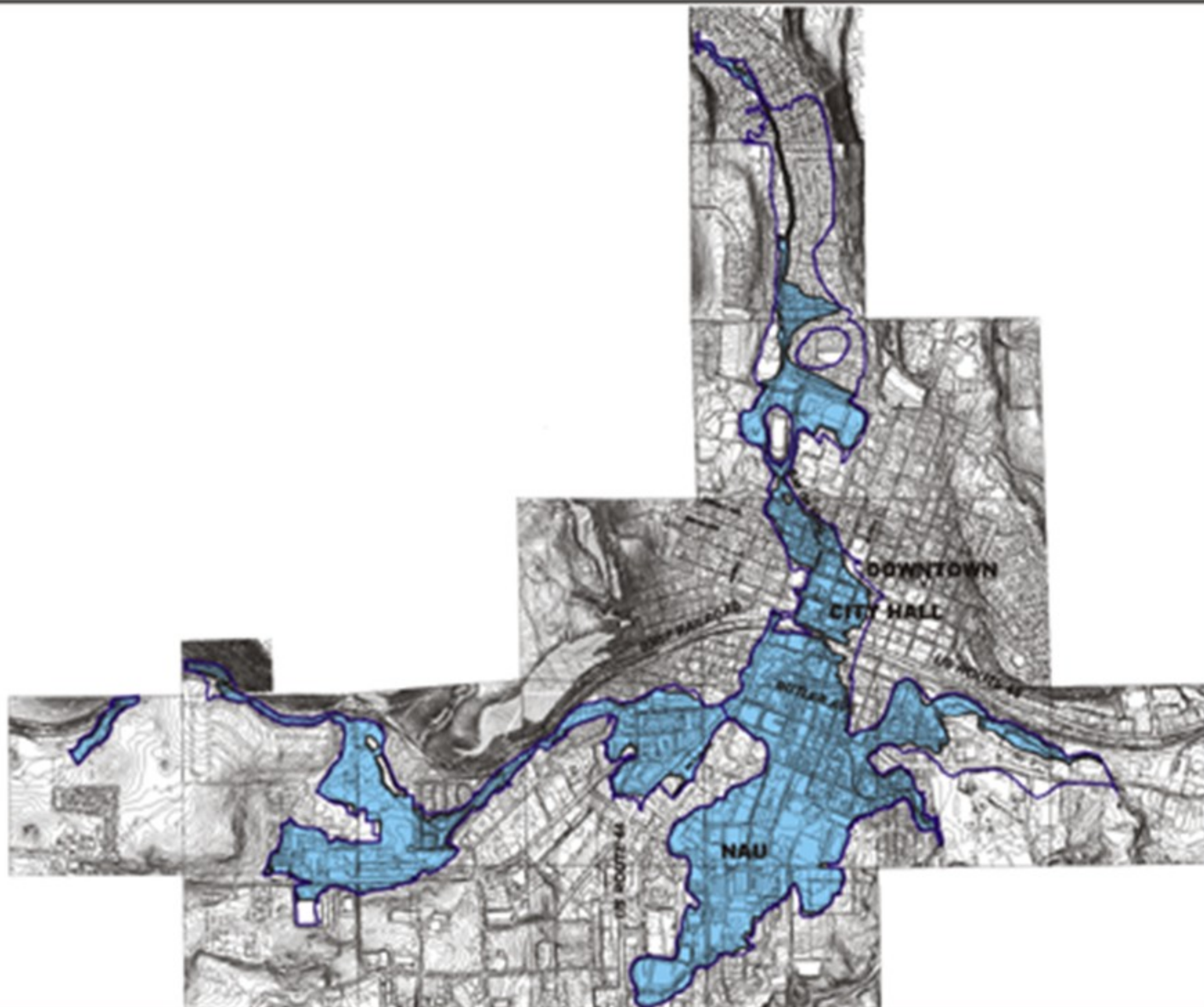
## Rio De Flag Project

City of Flagstaff, Arizona



Date: 10/5/11







GENERAL INVESTIGATION  
FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION STUDY  
FOR  
RIO DE FLAG,  
FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA

**2003 FLOODPLAIN**  
**Without-Project**  
**Conditions**  
**100 & 500 Years**  
**Downtown Area**

**LEGEND**

-  100 YEAR FLOODPLAIN 2003
-  500 YEAR FLOODPLAIN 2003



U.S. ARMY CORPS  
OF ENGINEERS  
Los Angeles District  
South Pacific Division



CITY OF FLAGSTAFF  
ARIZONA



0 100 200 300 400 500 Feet

1:18000

October 18, 1999

**CITY OF FLAGSTAFF, AZ  
RIO DE FLAG FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**



# City of Flagstaff Rio de Flag Flood Control Project

Federal Government has spent \$24.429M and City of Flagstaff has spent \$14.8M for a faulty dam, a tunnel that settled and is in violation, and 90% plans on a \$92M project

Time	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Congressional Action			\$750K approved	\$1 M approved	\$3.5 M approved	\$3.5 M approved	\$4 M approved	\$5.486M approved	\$1.69 approved	\$1.5 M approved	\$3.003 M approved told Phase 2A	\$0	\$0	
	WRDA Project Author-ization				WRDA approved @ \$24M	\$3.3M FHWA for 5 Birdges		WRDA approved @ \$54 M		Congress approves stimulus		FHWA trans bridge \$ to USACE		
USACE Action	Feasibility Study 12/29				Clay Basin plans Complete 8/04; delayed 2 yrs due to corps/BNSF dispute	VE Workshop 4/05		No post auth report complete	LRR @ 4/4 mtg. Said done by Aug	Phase 2 placed on stimulus work plan but OMB say no qualified	USACE dtrmns BNSF Bridge a LERRD & part of project	OMB says not eligible cuz no report (LRR)on file	\$2.4M Alloocated by Corps for Clay (\$2.1) and LRR	
			Chief's Report signed but not transmitted to OMB			30% Design completed new cost estimate \$54M		100% design complete on Clay	60% design 6/4;	90% design on 10/23, new cost est \$84 M	V.E. Session Jan. \$16 M ID in savings; VE Report done in Mar	V.E. Closed 7/14. \$1.8M ID savings; \$4M inflation added	Clay Basin repairs Started 8/12	
*1997 Reconissance Study Completed														
								Clay Basin Built	Butler Tunneling Built		Crack in Clay Basin 7/7; Tunnel settles	Tunnel settling repaired 5/11	Thorpe Bridge Const \$2.7M	LRR to Complete District Review
					PCA Adopted 8/13/04 @ \$30M					LRR Initiated		BCR/ERR done 3/28, Cost \$78M	Butler Hydr-seeding violation	
City Action									60% Utility plans reviewed	Proposal of Hybrid channel on Upper Reach	Mayor/ CM to L.A. discuss VA in Mar		Corps Announces Cost Total Est \$92M 9/12	
											Acquire Phase 2a land			
											Creosote clean lower reach			

Summarized Conclusions - Corps has been a great advocate, but has not adequately managed this project from a paperwork, finance or construction standpoint.

Paperwork Evidence

1) Chiefs report not transmitted in 2004  
2) LRR has taken almost 5 years and still not complete;  
3) Consistently miss deadlines by months; USACE Wrote Congressesman Gosar in 2011 pledging complete LRR by Sept '11, not complete as of January 2013

Finance Side

1) Design and Administration has taken 70% of Fed funds, likely around 25% of total cost [of \$23 M, \$6.9 for construction, rest for design]  
2) Cost estimates increased 125% from feasibility to 30% drawings; increased 55% from 30% design to 90% design; increased 17% from BCR to LRR Draft; 279% total  
3) VE took 18 months and saved only \$1.8 M which was countered with \$4M (or 5% overall) increase due to inflation  
4) Cannot account for \$622,000 City surplus contribution  
5) Congress approved \$3.003M in 2010. No additional construction nor LRR completed but all \$ exhausted.  
6) Congress approved \$3.3M for 5 bridges. FHWA deducted \$300,000 for transfer. USACE deducted \$300,000 for admin. Get 1 Bridge cost \$2.7M.

Construction Side

1) Poor Quality control led to crack on new dam - no fix for almost 2 yrs  
2) Cost to investigate responsibility for Clay ~\$700,000, Congressional funds used. No advancement of project. Oversight cost of Clay Repair est at \$900K.  
3) Butler tunnel settles, leave dip and crack in street. Corps fixes but becomes project cost  
4) USACE fails to hydroseed the Butler Tunnel. Now a Stormwater violation and invasive weeds occuring downstream. \$40,000 for USACE to fix  
5) Cost estimate for Thorpe Bridge is \$2.2M in 2011 it costs \$2.7M in 2012



February 14, 2013

Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary for the Army (Civil Works)  
108 Pentagon (Army)  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

We are writing to express our strong support for inclusion of at least a minimum of \$3.9 million for the construction of the Rio de Flag project in fiscal year 2013 work plan to keep this project on schedule. The Corps has expressed a capability of \$10 million and I request that, if possible, you include up to \$10 million in your final budget for the fiscal year. \$2.9 million would allow the Corps to finish repairs on the Clay Avenue Wash Detention Basin that pose a life and safety risk to a school and residents just below the basin. The remaining \$1 million would allow the Corps to complete the 100 percent drawings and could put a more definitive price tag on the remaining construction costs of the project.

For the last 30 years, the City of Flagstaff's top priority has been to mitigate potential flood damage caused by the Rio de Flag.

Since FY 2002, Rio de Flag has received nearly \$30 million in appropriations. With this funding, the Army Corps has conducted the feasibility study, pre-construction engineering and design (PED), and is currently in the construction phase. For nine consecutive fiscal years from fiscal year 2002 to fiscal year 2010, Rio de Flag received between \$1 and \$5.486 million for various phases of the project.

The Clay Avenue Wash Detention Basin was completed several years ago, although there are serious deficiencies in the levee that are forcing it to be rebuilt and fortified. The Corps built a project that Arizona Dam Safety will not accept, thus creating a bigger hazard than originally found. The current construction phase is focused on the Lower Main Stem north of Butler with both open and closed channeling.

The project was first authorized in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2000, P.L. 106-541, Title I, Section 101—Project Authorizations, for \$24 million. P.L. 110-141, Title III, Section 3005—Project-Related Provisions (WRDA 2007) increased the authorization limit to \$54 million.

It is my understanding that one of the concerns of the Corps (and OMB) is the fact that there is not updated economics through the Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) for the project. First, and foremost, the Corps completed a Chief's Report with the initial authorization in 2000. After the reauthorization with the higher 902(b) limit in 2007, updated economics were never completed, which is why the project has never been considered for the President's budget. The

rationale from the Corps for not compiling these updated economics was that it didn't want to waste time and resources on a project that consistently received congressional add-ons because of broad-based support from the congressional delegation over the long history of the project. The one year that Congress allowed the Corps to disperse the money through a work plan (FY 2008), Rio de Flag received its highest appropriation to date of \$5.486 million. The Corps saw no urgency or rationale for completing these updated economics.

However, when the Corps began drafting the work plan for ARRA ("stimulus") funds, Rio de Flag received \$10 million in funds only to be forced out of the Corps' final work plan by OMB because of the lack of a LRR and a new, corresponding benefit-to-cost ratio (BCR).

At the conclusion of the ARRA debate when Rio de Flag received no funding, despite being a high priority of the Corps of Engineers, the City immediately began working with the Corps to complete the LRR. For the last four years, despite the City's insistence and pressure to move this forward as quickly as possible, the LRR still has not been completed. In fact, when my predecessor, Congressman Gosar, wrote to you in May 2011, you responded to him stating that the Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) would be completed by September 2011. I've enclosed that letter for your review. It is now 18 months later and the LRR is not completed thus precluding us from funding in the FY 2013 work plan unless there are unobligated funds as there have been in previous years. Not only could this delay or prevent funding for FY 2013, but it may not allow the project to be considered in FY 2014 thus losing potentially two years of funding. This is simply unacceptable. The City's hands are tied and it shouldn't be penalized by the Corps's oversight and inability to complete the updated economics.

There are a multitude of reasons why Rio de Flag should be funded in FY 2013.

- 1) It has received nearly \$30 million in total and is nearly halfway through the construction phase of the project. It would be a waste of taxpayer dollars to not complete this important project and leave it fallow because of arbitrary requirements.
- 2) A devastating 500-year flood could damage or destroy approximately 1,500 structures valued at more than \$400 million. Similarly, a 100-year flood would cause an estimated \$100 million in damages. In the event of a catastrophic flood, over half of Flagstaff's population of approximately 65,000 would be directly impacted or affected. In short, the costs associated with a catastrophic flood would be exponentially more than the costs of the project in total.
- 3) The City shouldn't be penalized for not having updated economics because it has been pushing the Corps for the last several years to expedite a new report and the release of the new report is simply beyond the City's control. It is worth noting that more than four years and \$600,000 have been expended to date on the LRR with no final document.
- 4) The last time the Corps used a work plan, Fiscal Year 2008, the project received its highest appropriation ever of \$5.486 million because the Corps, at the time, realized how important and critical this project is to Flagstaff and northern Arizona.
- 5) Rio de Flag received \$2.5 million in FY 2012 funding to rebuild and repair the Clay Avenue Basin. It is now estimated that it will cost between \$4 and \$5 million to

complete the repairs on the basin. This poses a life and safety risk to the citizens of Flagstaff. Even more disconcerting is the fact that a school is located in close proximity to the damaged detention basin.

As you may know, Flagstaff has been hit hard by the economic downturn and the construction industry has been particularly hard hit. Estimates of unemployment in the construction industry are approximately 20 percent. The Rio de Flag project provides important, well-paying jobs in the community—averaging more than \$25 per hour -- that are desperately needed during this time of economic uncertainty.

Again, we respectfully request at a minimum \$3.9 million to repair the Clay Avenue Wash Detention Basin and to complete the 100 percent drawings in the FY 2013 work plan. Slowing this project would be irresponsible and a waste of precious taxpayer dollars that could result in huge losses of property and/or the loss of life.

If you have any question or concerns, please feel free to contact us, or Ken Montoya of Congresswoman Kirkpatrick's staff at (202) 225-3361 or Jeremy Harrell of Congressman Gosar's staff at (202) 225-2315.

Thanks in advance for your consideration of this request. In the meantime, please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress

Paul Gosar, DDS  
Member of Congress

February 14, 2013

Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary for the Army (Civil Works)  
108 Pentagon (Army)  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

We are writing to inquire about the status of the Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) for the Rio de Flag project in Flagstaff, Arizona.

As you know, a devastating 500-year flood could damage or destroy approximately 1,500 structures valued at more than \$400 million. Similarly, a 100-year flood would cause an estimated \$100 million in damages. In the event of a catastrophic flood, over half of Flagstaff's population of approximately 65,000 would be directly impacted or affected.

It is our understanding that the City has been asking the Corps for updated economics through the LRR since 2008. At the time, the City was informed that the LRR would be completed by the end of the year. In a June 2011 letter to our colleague, Congressman Paul Gosar, you wrote that you anticipated the LRR would be completed by September 2011. It is now nearly 18 months later and the LRR is still not completed. Without the LRR, the project cannot be considered for the President's budget request. Furthermore, it is our understanding that OMB will not fund projects in the Administration's work plan without updated economics from the LRR.

To date, the Rio de Flag flood control project has received more than \$25 million in federal funds. To allow this project to languish would be a waste of precious taxpayer dollars and an affront to our constituents in Flagstaff, Arizona who have dedicated millions of dollars to this project in the hopes that their lives, property and families will be protected from a catastrophic flood. Had the project's LRR been completed in September 2011, the project would have been considered in the President's fiscal year 2013 budget plan. Now, without an updated LRR, the project may not receive funding in FY 2013 and 2014. The City's hands are tied and it shouldn't be penalized by the Corps's oversight and inability to complete the updated economics in a timely manner. Please advise us as to when the LRR is going to be completed so this project can be considered in the President's budget.

Thanks in advance for your consideration of this request. In the meantime, please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,  
John McCain  
U.S. Senator

Jeff Flake  
U.S. Senator