

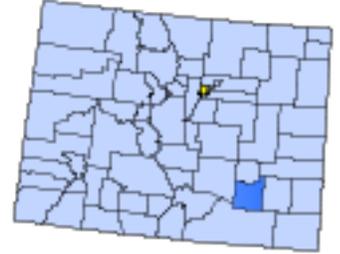


La Junta Salvage Yard

Full Mitigation Best Practice Story

Otero County, Colorado

La Junta, CO - The City of La Junta's salvage yard had been operating since the late 1960s and had become a blight within the community. The property was under water whenever there was high water in the Arkansas River. The owner felt that the problem was going to get worse over the years.



The City of La Junta's objective for the acquisition project was to clear the floodplain of structures and/or flood proof the existing commercial structures to minimize the flood damages. The fear was that the next flood would wash debris into the properties and then into the Arkansas River Bridge downstream.

Five months after the salvage yard was cleared, a 50-year flood event occurred. The project prevented approximately \$500,000 in damages to the Arkansas River Bridge and downstream properties.

Standard Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flood damage. The National Flood Insurance Program makes Federally backed flood insurance available to homeowners, renters, and business owners in participating communities.

Activity/Project Location

Geographical Area: **Single County in a State**

FEMA Region: **Region VIII**

State: **Colorado**

County: **Otero County**

City/Community: **La Junta**

Key Activity/Project Information

Sector: **Public**

Hazard Type: **Flooding**

Activity/Project Type: **Acquisition/Buyouts**

Structure Type: **Wood Frame**

Activity/Project Start Date: **09/1997**

Activity/Project End Date: **12/1998**

Funding Source: **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA); Local Sources**

Funding Recipient: **Local Government**

Funding Recipient Name: **City of La Junta**

Activity/Project Economic Analysis

Cost: **\$106,591.00 (Actual)**

Activity/Project Disaster Information

Mitigation Resulted From Federal
Disaster? **No**

Value Tested By Disaster? **Yes**

Tested By Federal Disaster #: **No Federal Disaster specified**

Year First Tested: **1999**

Repetitive Loss Property? **Unknown**

Reference URLs

Reference URL 1: <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/>

Reference URL 2: <http://www.floodsmart.gov/>

Main Points

- The property was under water whenever there was high water in the Arkansas River.
- The objective was to clear the floodplain of structures and/or flood proof the existing commercial structures to minimize the flood damages.
- Five months after the salvage yard was cleared, a 50-year flood event occurred. The project prevented approximately \$500,000 in damages to the Arkansas River Bridge and downstream properties.