

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Coal Creek Flood Mitigation Project  
Larimer County, Colorado  
May 26, 2009

**BACKGROUND**

Larimer County has submitted an application for funding under the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program for a flood mitigation project to prevent or reduce potential flooding along the 100-year floodplain of Coal Creek located in Larimer County, Colorado. The Boxelder Creek watershed, which includes Coal Creek, is among the 10 watersheds most likely to flood in the state of Colorado. Because of the potential flood threat to residents living along Boxelder and Coal creeks, reduction in the potential flood threat within these watersheds is a high priority within Larimer County, and the State of Colorado.

The City of Wellington is located in north-central Colorado in the heart of the Boxelder Valley at the intersection of Interstate 25 and Colorado Highway 1, in the northeast corner of Larimer County. The part of the Coal Creek floodplain located in Wellington has the greatest amount of existing development at risk from flood events. The older part of Wellington was developed years before the adoption of modern floodplain land use requirements and the center of the older part of Wellington is within the designated 100-year floodplain of Coal Creek. A survey for improvements in the floodplain in Wellington identified 215 structures subject to flooding from Coal Creek, including 170 houses, 37 businesses, 2 schools, and 6 municipal facilities.

The Coal Creek drainage is part of the Boxelder Creek watershed. Runoff generated within the Coal Creek drainage has resulted in flooding within Wellington on 13 occasions since 1900; the most damaging floods occurred in 1961 and 1967. During the 1967 flood, four lives were lost when a bridge over a county road washed out.

The North Poudre Inlet Canal and Clark Reservoir were constructed in 1904 with the intent of diverting and delivering water from Coal Creek and other upstream sources for irrigation purposes. During the past 100+ years, segments of the inlet canal and the reservoir have been affected by siltation, which reduces the conveyance capacity of the canal and the storage capacity of the reservoir. In addition, the County Road 7 bridge crossing over the canal has limited conveyance capacity which has contributed to sediment deposition in the canal and the reduced flow capacity of the canal.

## DESCRIPTION

The project would reduce the potential for future flooding downstream of the North Poudre Inlet Canal by diverting floodwaters from Coal Creek and storing them in Clark Reservoir. The project is anticipated to take 13 to 15 months to complete. Project components are as follows:

- Improvements to North Poudre Inlet Canal
- CR 7 Crossing Upgrade
- Dredging and Excavation at Clark Reservoir
- Staging Area
- Fill area north of Clark Reservoir
- Vegetation Disposal Area
- Emergency Spillway Improvements
- Outlet Channel Improvements
- Culvert and swale installation downstream of the intersection of CR 64 and North 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Wellington

## MITIGATION AND STIPULATIONS

The resulting mitigation and stipulations upon which this finding is conditioned are:

- ✓ 1. An Erosion Control Plan must be submitted and approved by Larimer County prior to construction as well as submit proof of deposit of security to insure rehabilitation of the disturbed land.
- ✓ 2. Floodplain development permits are required from the City of Wellington and Larimer County prior to construction.
- ✓ 3. Larimer County must obtain a Land Development Fugitive Dust permit from the Air Pollution Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. A Dust Control Plan must be prepared as part of the permitting process.
4. A Colorado Discharge Permitting System permit and Section 401 Certification from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Water Quality Control Division are required.
- ✓ 5. To prevent impacts to nesting MBTA-covered bird species and raptors, any woody vegetation must be removed during the August 15 through January 31 non-nesting period.

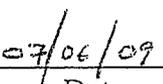
- ✓ 6. Larimer County is required to mitigate 11.8 acres of PEM/PSS impacted wetlands on a 1:1 basis and as outlined in the County's Wetlands Mitigation Plan prepared for the project.
- ✓ 7. Work adjacent to wetlands should be conducted between October 1 and May 1 during the inactive period of amphibians and reptiles per the Colorado DOW.
8. All construction and reclamation activities would be completed within the guidelines of the Colorado Noxious Weed Act and the Larimer County Weed Control District.
9. Dredging, excavation and vegetation removal activities must be completed in accordance with Best Management to reduce impacts to soils and water resources.
10. Prior notice to residents living near Clark Reservoir regarding 24 hour dredging activities is required.
11. To assure noise levels remain at acceptable levels, all equipment must be equipped with proper mufflers and construction activities (other than dredging) would be limited to daylight hours.
12. If cultural resources are encountered during project activities, work would be stopped until appropriate coordination has been completed with FEMA and the Colorado SHPO.

## FINDINGS

Based upon the information contained in the attached Final Environmental Assessment completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, FEMA's regulations (44 CFR Part 10) for environmental considerations, and Executive Orders (EO) addressing Floodplains (EO 11988), Wetlands (EO 11990), and Environmental Justice (EO 12898), it is found that the Proposed Action with the prescribed mitigation measures and stipulations will have no significant adverse impact on the human environment. As a result of this Finding of No Significant Impact, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared, and the Proposed Action with the associated mitigation measures and stipulations as described in the attached Environmental Assessment may proceed.

## APPROVAL

  
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Steven Hardegen  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region VIII

  
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Date