

DRAFT
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
City of St. George, Utah
DR-1955-UT
June 16, 2011

BACKGROUND

Several days of heavy rainfall caused significant flooding along the Santa Clara and Virgin Rivers in December, 2010. Riverbanks were scoured of vegetation and the river undercut many areas in Washington County in southwest Utah. Kane and Garfield Counties also suffered severe flooding

As a result of these severe winter storms and flooding, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), authorized under Presidential disaster declaration FEMA DR-1955-UT, dated February 11, 2011, and amended March 11, 2011, will be providing Federal assistance to parts of Utah designated as major disaster areas. Under the declaration FEMA funds are available to eligible applicants (State and local governments, as well as certain Private Non-Profit Organizations) for assistance with emergency services and permanent repairs to utility services, access roads, culverts, bridges, buildings and other facilities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In this event the river washed away approximately 75 feet of existing bank, destroying the trail at Tonaquint Commercial Center. Several small sections of trail to either side of the destroyed section were also destroyed. The trail was 10-foot wide by 2 ½-inch thick asphalt centered on a 15-foot wide by 6-inch untreated base. Reclaiming the soil and rebuilding the trail is an eligible action under the FEMA Public Assistance (PA) program. The City of St. George had requested that eligible funds for the damaged trail be directed toward relocating the trail south of its pre-disaster location to the new bank alignment.

The post flooding bank alignment would be stabilized with approximately 4,400 cubic yards of fill material. A 1:1 rip rap slope, utilizing approximately 3,500 cubic yards, would be constructed down to the river bottom. Existing soil would be compacted and include a 5 foot safety buffer between the trail shoulder and the top of the river slope. The trail would then be built in the new easement, relocating it approximately 75 feet south of the pre-disaster location, which is now part of the river. The damaged ends of the trail would be cut away and approximately 1,100 linear feet of paved trail would be placed in the new easement.

MITIGATION AND STIPULATIONS

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

1. Timing of construction should be conducted between August 1 through March 31 to avoid direct and indirect impacts to spawning fish.
2. No work of any kind is permitted anywhere in the flowing river unless specially coordinated with UDWR for fish clearance. Contact UDRW (Rick Fridell at 435-879-8694).
3. The area and length of disturbance within the flowing river channel should be minimized to the greatest extent possible. Avoid crossing the river whenever possible. If it is necessary for equipment to cross the river do so at a pre-identified crossing point after fish clearances have been conducted by UDWR.
4. Maintain unrestricted fish passage through the project area at all times.
5. If bank stabilization and erosion control structures are necessary, they should be properly designed to maintain or enhance natural stream function (sinuosity, gradient, hydrology and sediment transport).
6. Concrete, asphalt, steel, or other human-made materials should not be used for bank stabilization or in the active stream channel. Boulders, root-wads and other natural materials found locally should be used to stabilize the stream bank.
7. Care should be taken to minimize sedimentation resulting from bank or stream bed disturbance.
8. Equipment should be cleaned to remove noxious weeds/seeds and petroleum products prior to moving on site.
9. Fueling machinery should occur off site of in a confined, designated area to prevent spillage into waterways. Oil booms should be on site and placed downstream of the project site prior to beginning work if equipment will be operating in the low flow channel.
10. Materials should not be stockpiled in the riparian area or other sensitive areas, i.e. wetlands.
11. Equipment should work from the top of the bank or from the channel to minimize disturbance to the riparian area and to protect the banks. Heavy equipments should avoid crossing and/or disturbing wetlands.
12. Excavated soils should be sorted into mineral soils and top soils. When backfilling a disturbed site, top soil should be placed on top to provide a seed bed for native plants.
13. Disturbed areas should be monitored for noxious and undesirable plant species and control actions should be implemented if necessary.
14. Disturbed areas (work site(s), ingress, egress, stockpile site(s), pit) should be revegetated when appropriate after the construction with native plants or certified weed-free native seed. Revegetation activities will be coordinated with UDWR, the Virgin River Program,

and the Service. The planting should be monitored for success. If the plantings fail it should be reseeded/planted.

15. If cultural resources are encountered during construction, work would be stopped until appropriate coordination has been completed with FEMA and the UTAH State Historic Preservation Officer.
16. The City of St. George is responsible for obtaining all applicable permits for this project.

FINDINGS

Based on information contained in the attached Environmental Assessment that was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, FEMA's regulations (44CFR Part 10) for environmental consideration, and Executive Orders addressing Floodplains (E.O. 11988), Wetlands, (E.O. 11990) and Environmental Justice (E.O. 12898), it has been found that the proposed action with the prescribed mitigation measures will have no significant adverse impact to human health or the 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 as described above may proceed.

Steven Hardegen _____ Date: _____

Region VIII Environmental Officer