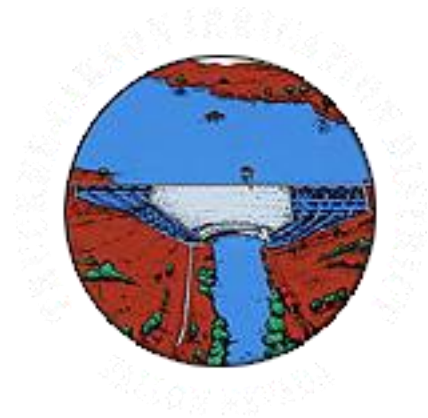


# Town Hall Meeting Spring Thaw 2023

March 23, 2023

Churchill County, City of Fallon, & Truckee-Carson Irrigation District



# Overview

- 2017 Situation and Response
- 2023 Situation and Response
- Planned Mitigation Efforts
- Key Takeaways

# 2017 Situation

- Northern Nevada flood events in January and February of 2017.
  - Cycles of intense snowfall followed by Atmospheric Rivers in the Sierra.
  - Two Presidential Disaster Declarations approved.
  - Lahontan Reservoir had received in excess of 90,000 acre feet of water in five days.
  - Water content in the Carson River Watershed was approximately 250% to 300% of a normal water year.
  - Amount of water going into Carson River about 2.5 to 3.0 times Lahontan Reservoir capacity.
  - Lahontan needed to be emptied twice before September and will still be full.
- Spring thaw conditions:
  - Record snowpack in the mountains.
  - Soil saturation throughout the Carson River.
  - Warm spring weather.

# 2017 Response

- Sandbags availability
- River and canal clearing
- Controlled releases in Carson River
- Public information
- Culverts under I-95
- Berm for property protection
- The V Line Weir
- The Big Dig



# 2023 Situation

- Ongoing snowfall and Atmospheric Rivers in the Sierra.
  - The winter 2023 record snowpack to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, again.
  - Local and state emergency declarations, no presidential declaration yet.
  - Current lidar readings show approximately 1.1 million acre feet of water held in snow above 6,000 feet.
  - Spratt Creek, near Markleeville, California, is estimated to be at 1,600% of normal snowpack.
  - Colder weather is shortening the window for water releases throughout spring.
  - There is the potential to fill the reservoir three times.
- Spring thaw conditions:
  - Record snowpack in the mountains.
  - Soil saturation throughout the Carson River.
  - Warm spring weather.

# 2023 Response

- We already have the following mitigation measures in place from 2017:
  - Culverts under I-95
  - Berm for property protection
  - The V Line Weir
  - The Big Dig
- Ongoing Preparedness:
  - Sandbags availability
  - River and canal clearing
  - Controlled releases in Carson River
  - Public information
  - Water delivery availability



# Planned Mitigation Efforts

- Working with local, state, and federal partners to coordinate resources for preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Planning efforts underway for additional mitigation measures, including:
  - Continued water releases
  - Improved berm near Pasture Road
  - Second Weir on V Line Canal
  - State and Federal Recovery operations



# Key Takeaways

- All of us must prepare for flooding now.
- This is different than 2017, but we are not out of the woods.
- If you live in areas near the river, assess and act.
- We are doing everything possible keep water within the system.
- Stay informed, be prepared, and have a plan.