



Regional Flood Control District

The mission of the Clark County Regional Flood Control District is to improve the protection of life and property for existing residents, future residents, and visitors from the impacts of flooding while also protecting the environment.

F A C T S

Why created – Because the major washes are dry most of the year, many residents are unaware of the flood potential or never see flooding occur until it is too late. The piecemeal approach to flood control was ineffective during the floods in the early 1980s. A coordinated and uniform approach was required; therefore, elected officials sought legislative changes that would allow for the creation of a regional flood control district to develop a comprehensive plan and provide funding for the plan's implementation.

When created – The Nevada State Legislature passed a bill in 1985 that allowed for the creation of local districts for the control of floods. The Clark County Regional Flood Control District was created in early 1985 by a Clark County ordinance. The District was charged with developing and overseeing a coordinated and comprehensive flood control master plan to alleviate flooding in Clark County, to regulate land use in flood hazard areas, to fund and coordinate the construction of flood control facilities, and to develop and contribute to the funding of a maintenance program for regional flood control facilities.

How funded – On September 2, 1986, voters approved a quarter cent sales tax to fund construction of regional flood control facilities. The Regional Flood Control District began receiving sales tax revenues in 1987. The design of the first flood control project was funded by the RFCDD later in 1987. Construction of the first project began in 1988.

Funded to date – Total flood control funding to date for capital improvement is approximately \$1.6 billion. This includes, federal funding of approximately \$239 million for the \$336 million U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Tropicana and Flamingo Washes Project. The federal project removed 18.8 square miles of FEMA flood zone with 8 basins and approximately 28 miles of primary channel.

Completed facilities – As of February 2010, there are **85 detention basins** and approximately **560 miles of channels and underground storm drains** (*of the completed channels 130 miles are natural washes*) on-line throughout Clark County. To date, 51 square miles have been removed from federally identified FEMA flood zones. This has saved residents millions of dollars per year in flood insurance premiums.

Remainder to be Built – We are more than half way done with our Master Plan. Another **36 detention basins are planned**, along with **approximately 240 miles of conveyance**.

Recent Progress – With each completed project, another area of the Valley is better protected from flooding, but there is more to be done. The District estimates that it will take 25 more years before all flood control improvements have been completed, until then people must not take unnecessary risks during storms.

The Flood Channel Television Program – the District produces a 30-minute television news program that updates the community about the progress of flood control and provides information about flash flood safety. The program airs about 40 times per month on Cox Cable channels 2 and 4, as well as stations in Laughlin and Mesquite.

World Wide Web – The District's website, www.regionalflood.org, provides citizens information about the District and the progress of flood control in Clark County. The site also gives current rainfall information at approximately 150 locations throughout Clark County, along with flood zone information.