

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Betty Hollister, APR
Public Information Manager, 455-3139; cell 249-4378

July 8, 2004

Flood control funding passes \$1 billion mark

At today's Regional Flood Control District board meeting, three projects were approved for construction bringing the total funded to date in excess of \$1 billion for flood control improvements.

The three projects, Veteran's Memorial Detention Basin in Boulder City, the Indian Springs Detention Basin and the Upper Las Vegas Wash Channel from Craig to Elkhorn, totaled \$13.1 million in construction funding.

Since its inception in 1985, the Regional Flood Control District has overseen \$1.03 billion for the design, right-of-way and construction of detention basins, channels and underground storm drains. This amount includes \$194 million in funding from the Federal Government for work on the Tropicana and Flamingo Washes project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Clark County Commissioner Bruce Woodbury was the first chairman of the District's Board of Directors in 1985 and continues to be a guiding force on the board. "The progress made over the last 15 years has been critical in making our community safer from devastating floods. While it is rewarding to be a part of those accomplishments, we have a lot more work ahead of us," Woodbury said. He explained that the progress made to date is attributed to the strong private-public partnerships that have been formed since the creation of the District.

Currently there are 62 detention basins and 350 miles of channel collecting and diverting floodwater throughout Clark County. The District's Master Plan includes the construction of another 64 detention basins and 460 miles of conveyance that will take approximately 25-30 years to complete.

RFCD Board Chairman and City of Las Vegas Councilman Larry Brown said, "Floodwater does not recognize governmental boundaries. That's why a comprehensive regional plan is so important for our local communities." In addition, Brown emphasized the need to inform the community about flood safety and not taking unnecessary risks during storms.