



## 2010 Begins with a Flurry of Construction

As the temperatures begin to rise and spring quickly approaches, one doesn't have to spend too much time at the Las Vegas Wash before encountering bright yellow Caterpillars inching along. Although the small fuzzy insects that turn into butterflies are found along the Wash, it is actually the giant pieces of equipment – associated with most major construction projects – that are more likely to be encountered. And with three construction projects under way, the Las Vegas Wash is certainly crawling with these big earth-movers.

The Fire Station Bank Protection project is taking place at the east end of the Clark County Wetlands Park, just upstream of Lake Las Vegas. Construction began in January on this project that was previously described in the [December 2009 Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee E-mail Update](#).



Two sections of head cut that will be stabilized by the future Lower Narrows Weir.

The second project is the Homestead Weir and Lower Narrows Weir. These two large weirs were designed and bid as a single project to help reduce the overall project costs. The project, designed by the Louis Berger Group, was expected to begin construction in early 2008. Due to the discovery of cultural artifacts within the planned construction area, the project was delayed, which allowed the Wash Project Team to work with the Nevada Division of the Environmental Protection Agency to address some of the pre-existing perchlorate issues in this area of the Wash.

The weirs will be constructed using rock rip-rap and will both be located between the existing Calico Ridge Weir and the Demonstration Weir. Each structure will be approximately 475 feet long and will stabilize several headcuts that currently drop approximately 30 feet. The project was awarded to Frehner Construction who submitted a bid well below the engineer's estimate. Construction is expected to be completed by late 2011.

The final flurry of activity involves the annual arrival of the Bureau of Reclamation construction crew from Provo, Utah. This collaborative relationship has enabled the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) to complete many necessary construction projects over the years in a timely and cost efficient manner. With funds dedicated to the Las Vegas Wash by Reclamation, the Southern Nevada Water Authority only has to cover the costs of materials and equipment rentals.

The crews arrived in early February and have a full slate of projects to keep them busy through May. Some of the scheduled projects include, excavating soil near the future Sunrise Mountain Weir and the northern extension of the Historic Lateral Weir; installing a culvert bridge over the City of Henderson outfall channel near the Pabco Road Weir; clearing approximately eight acres of invasive tamarisk that will likely serve as a future Green-Up site; decreasing the slope of the road on the east side of the C-1 Channel bridge; and conducting several small projects to repair damage sustained from the recent rains.



Reclamation construction crews covering a section of bank protection in 2009.

Although all of this activity may lead some to believe that the Clark County Wetlands Park won't be a quiet oasis for a while, nothing could be further from reality. There are still plenty of areas throughout the park, especially the western portion, that promise abundant opportunities for seeing wildlife and escaping the normal Las Vegas hustle and bustle. The Wetlands Park is open from dawn until dusk and visitors are always welcome.

### Upcoming Events

**Las Vegas Valley  
Watershed Advisory  
Committee Meeting**  
March 9, 2010 3 p.m.

**Spring Green-Up  
Event**  
March 20, 2010  
11 a.m.