



Year-End Rain Causes a Flood of Activity

Although the Las Vegas Valley doesn't get rain very often, when it does, it tends to make a lasting impression. That was the case with the storm that soaked the area for several days at the end of the 2010. Regardless of where in town it rains, the storm water almost always finds its way to the Las Vegas Wash. According to stream gauges and flood models, the December 2010 storm measured equivalent to a 17-year flood event.



The Bureau of Reclamation construction crew installing bank protection last spring.

In the 11-year history of the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee, 12 weirs have been installed along the Las Vegas Wash, adding more than seven miles of bank protection and reducing erosion caused by flooding. These structures have been engineered and constructed to withstand a 100-year flood event, and performed well throughout the storm.

However, the high flows challenged the Lower Narrows and Homestead Weirs projects since construction is only half completed. The flood inflicted some damage to several pieces of equipment that were unable to be pulled to safety before being exposed to the rising flows, but the project avoided any major impacts or delays and work has returned to normal.

The Bureau of Reclamation construction crew recently returned for their annual visit to the Las Vegas Wash and this year's top priorities include addressing several areas that sustained flooding damage. Scheduled projects for this round include filling in several scour holes near the Upper Diversion Weir where flows re-entered the Las Vegas Wash perpendicularly and rearranging several pieces of rip rap that shifted under heavy flows on several of the weirs. Crews also are expected to clean out some sediment near the Pabco Road Weir that was beginning to impact the directional flow of the channel.

Spring Into Action at Wash Green-Up

There is no doubt that spring is right around the corner, now that the weather is warming, the sun sets a little later and trees and flowers are beginning to bloom. The arrival of spring also means that it's time to secure your spot at the annual Wash Green-Up volunteer planting event. The Wash Green-Up is taking place on nine acres between the Pabco Road and Historic Lateral Weirs. Approximately 450 volunteers will plant 2,500 trees and shrubs at the event, sponsored by the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee.



If you'd like to volunteer, log on to LVWash.org or call the information line at **(702) 822-8543**.

Reserve your spot for the Spring Wash Green-Up on Saturday, April 2.