REGIONAL FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

district facts

WHY WE WERE CREATED

Flood control used to be a sore subject. The disjointed approach to flood control was ineffective during the floods in the early 1980s. A coordinated, uniform approach was required. Elected officials sought legislative changes allowing for the creation of a regional flood control district to develop a comprehensive plan and provide funding for its implementation.

WHEN WE STARTED

We're an '80s baby. The Nevada State Legislature passed a bill in 1985 allowing for the creation of local districts for flood control. The Clark County Regional Flood Control District (District) was created in 1986 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; establishing regulations for development in flood hazard areas; funding and coordinating the construction of flood control facilities; and developing and contributing to the funding of a maintenance program for regional facilities.

HOW WE'RE FUNDED

Tiny percentage, big improvements. On September 2, 1986, voters approved a one-quarter of one percent sales tax to fund the construction of regional flood control facilities. The District began receiving sales tax revenues in 1987. Later that year, the district funded the design of the first flood control project, and construction began in 1988.

HOW MUCH HAS BEEN FUNDED

Dedicated dollars make a difference. The District has invested approximately $2.52 billion in regional flood control infrastructure since inception. This includes approximately $251 million in funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Tropicana and Flamingo Washes Project. This federal project removed 18.8 square miles of FEMA special flood hazard areas by constructing eight basins and approximately 28 miles of primary channels.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Pardon our dust. The District's Master Plan is approximately 75% complete. Another 31 detention basins and approximately 217 miles of stormwater conveyance facilities are planned.

WORK WE'VE DONE

We've come a long way. As of June 2026, there are 113 detention basins, approximately 722 miles of channels, and underground storm drains (of the completed channels, 133 miles are natural, or unlined, washes) in operation throughout Clark County. To date, 65 square miles have been removed from federally identified FEMA special flood hazard areas. This has resulted in substantial savings for residents in annual flood insurance premiums.

MOVING FORWARD

Progress, plans, and potential. With each completed project, another area of the county is better protected from flooding, but more must be done. The District continues long-term planning with major improvements and projects expected over the next several decades. This is why we need to continue making smart decisions during storms and staying away from floodwater.

WE'RE ONLINE

The District's website, RegionalFlood.org, provides information about the District and the progress of flood control in Clark County. The site also provides real-time rainfall data from 222 locations throughout Clark County, as well as flood zone information.

RegionalFlood.org

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