

City of Elko )  
County of Elko )  
State of Nevada )

SS March 14, 2017

The City Council of the City of Elko, State of Nevada met for a regular meeting beginning at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 14, 2017.

This meeting was called to order by Mayor Chris Johnson.

## ROLL CALL

**Mayor Present:** Chris J. Johnson

**Council Present:** Councilman John Rice *left at 5:00pm*  
Councilwoman Mandy Simons  
Councilman Robert Schmidlein  
Councilman Reece Keener

**City Staff Present:** Curtis Calder, City Manager  
Scott Wilkinson, Assistant City Manager  
Ryan Limberg, Utilities Director  
Aubree Barnum, Human Resources Manager  
Jonnye Jund, Accounting Manager  
Jeremy Draper, Development Manager  
Cathy Laughlin, City Planner  
James Wiley, Parks and Recreation Director  
Dennis Strickland, Public Works Director  
Dave Stanton, City Attorney  
Matt Griego, Fire Chief  
Ben Reed Jr., Police Chief  
Shelby Womack, Police Records Supervisor  
James Foster, Assistant Airport Director  
Bob Thibault, Civil Engineer  
Ted Schnoor, Building Official  
John Holmes, Fire Marshal  
Diann Byington, Recording Secretary

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Pursuant to N.R.S. 241, this time is devoted to comments by the public, if any, and discussion of those comments. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item on the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on a successive agenda and identified as an item for possible action. **ACTION WILL NOT BE TAKEN**

*There were no public comments.*

## I. PRESENTATIONS

- A. A reading of a proclamation by the Mayor recognizing March 19 thru March 27, 2017 as Professional Land Surveyors Week, and matters related thereto.  
**INFORMATION ONLY-NON ACTION ITEM**

Mayor Johnson read the proclamation. He presented a copy of it to Chris Konakis.

Chris Konakis, President NALS Great Basin Chapter, thanked the Mayor and the City.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** February 28, 2017                      **Regular Session**

**\*\* A motion was made by Councilwoman Simons, seconded by Councilman Keener, to approve the minutes.**

*The motion passed unanimously. (5-0)*

## I. PRESENTATIONS (Cont.)

- B. Presentation of February 2017 City of Elko Flood Event, as it pertains to weather conditions, Staff deployment, emergency declaration, emergency response, and disaster recovery effort(s), and matters related thereto. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Curtis Calder, City Manager, introduced the presentation.

Greg Barnhart, Elko National Weather Service, began the presentation (Exhibit "A") explaining the weather event that lead to the flood.

Councilman Keener asked how you acquire the readings from the Ryndon gauge.

Mr. Barnhart answered it is off their website. The gauge is calibrated when there is flow into it.

James Ellison, 7<sup>th</sup> Street, has lived on the Humboldt River his whole life. He talked about past floods. He said the water they had did not come from the river. That water came from the drains.

Mr. Ellison asked if they use the same gauges that the Water Department uses.

Mr. Barnhart answered they use all of the USGS gauges that are out there.

Mr. Calder continued on with the City's portion of the presentation.

Joyce Ellison, 445 S. 7<sup>th</sup> St., said she called Red Cross to get help. She called the 800 number and later met with Darcy in front of her apartment building. According to Darcy no one else had called for help. The FEMA stuff that was referred to mentioned the city and not the private people. She called dispatch and she was referred to a county number but no one answered it. She read a letter (Exhibit "B").

James Ellison, 7<sup>th</sup> Street, apologized for allowing the last meeting turn into an argument. He has been on the phone with the Department of Public Safety that deals with FEMA. Manuel Vega told his cleaning lady to tell the residents on the south side that this was a city mistake. He has been watching the water rise and has dug through the weeds to find the culverts. He has talked to city employees that are retired. They told him the covers were removed from the drains and where they were buried. He has been on the phone with Dean Heller's office. The city and the county need to get on board about it and correct what is wrong. People cannot afford more loans. It is wrong that the people are trying to figure out a way to pay for this damage. The city should get their insurance company down there and try to resolve this without a big fight. The city carries a liability insurance and it should help pay for some of the damages.

Richard Lespade, 120 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, said during Saturday night he was looking for sandbags at approximately 5pm. The sandbags ran out and he did not know who to contact or where to go to get more. He thought the information was chaotic. His biggest concern is that this was not the first time that the same house has flooded. What plan are we actually working towards so that this doesn't happen again?

Patty Meyer, S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, read a letter and displayed some pictures that she sent to some people in Carson City (Exhibit "C").

Van Cornejo, south side, wondered how many people are still displaced. He talked to a couple that had flood insurance but they are not going to be able to fix everything. His house on Wilson had 9 feet of water from the basement and is still not able to occupy it. There are still a lot of people that are homeless. They have been trying to find people to help but they don't know where to go.

Jared Ellison, 459 S. 9<sup>th</sup>, said he walks the river every day. With more flooding coming, the city is putting rubber bladders in. Will those bladders keep the water back? How much will they hold?

Mayor Johnson answered they will hold back 20-30 feet of head. They may not completely seal but they are one of the better seals available.

Jared Ellison said these problems were known before the flooding. Why weren't they fixed? What will the city do now and what are the future steps?

Mayor Johnson answered some of those answers were in the presentation. The city is working on more modeling of the river. We cannot give a definite answer today but that will be provided at a later meeting.

Ms. Ellison talked to Kelly Anderson from Nevada Department of Public Safety. She needed 25 names of people that had been affected by the flooding so FEMA could get started. She also went through on her own time and provided a list of all the homeowners in the area up to Wilson. Ms. Anderson should get back to her when the FEMA assistance is approved.

Mayor Johnson said that Elko did qualify with 21 homes. There are protocols that FEMA has to follow to allocate federal funding in a disaster. One of the things to meet thresholds is dollars

amounts and number of homes damaged. Elko had met that and it was decided to have SBA in the area. From that time until the day the SBA was to be in Elko, Lemon Valley flooded. The SBA funding being available for loans has been on hold right now.

Andre Lespade, 120 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St., commended everyone in the community that helped out. His biggest issue was with delineation of information.

Councilman Keener noted Linkan Engineering did a lot to help residents in the south side.

Mr. Cornejo said Al Park and Atwal were giving out vouchers for fuel to keep generators running.

Mayor Johnson closed public comments for this item. He said we will continue to look into the river and the history of. The City of Elko cannot prevent the flood. There is no way the city can do that. That area is within a flood plain. There are no indicators that there is a “less chance” area because of any flood structure. He doesn’t see that the city could ever commit to that area would not flood. As far as comments about the city managing and dredging the river, he will keep an open mind but he is not sure that the city was ever supposed to do that to the Humboldt River. The city fell under the county’s emergency declaration. It takes a while to get assistance from FEMA. We are in the process and our paperwork is being looked at. Even if FEMA money comes available, it won’t pay for 100% of the damages.

*Councilman Rice left during the discussion above.*

## **NO ACTION**

## **II. APPROPRIATIONS**

- B. Review, consideration, and possible authorization for Staff to solicit bids for the Public Works Department for Plantmix Bituminous Pavement materials to be used for the Year 2017 Construction Season, and matters related thereto. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

This is an annual bid request for Plantmix Bituminous Pavement Materials based upon a unit price per ton amount. The materials are primarily used by the Public Works Department on streets, but the material may also be used by other departments as needed. DS

Dennis Strickland, Public Works Director, explained this is the annual item to go out for bids.

**\*\* A motion was made by Councilman Schmidlein, seconded by Councilwoman Simons, to authorize staff to solicit bids for the Plantmix Bituminous Pavement materials to be used for the 2017 construction season.**

*The motion passed unanimously. (4-0)*

- C. Review, consideration, and possible final acceptance of the Boiler Replacement Project, and matters related thereto. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

This project was awarded to KAP Mechanical Services at the September 13, 2016 Council Meeting in the amount of \$179,250. There were two change orders in the amount of \$2,305.57 bringing the total for the contract to \$181,555.57. This additional work included the installation of a chemical feeder and the replacement of three 4 inch butterfly valves on the geothermal return line. The project has been completed and is in conformance with the plans and specifications and is ready for final acceptance. JW

James Wiley, Parks and Recreation Director, explained KAP Mechanical did a great job for us. There were only minor change orders. The total cost for the project was included in the packet.

**\*\* A motion was made by Councilwoman Simons, seconded by Councilman Keener, for final acceptance of the Boiler Replacement Project in the amount of \$181,555.57.**

*The motion passed unanimously. (4-0)*

- D. Review, consideration, and possible approval to solicit bids for the Sewer Slip Line Project 2017, and matters related thereto. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

This project has been funded in the current fiscal year budget. This work will occur on portions of Weyumb, Toiyabe, ITC, and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The sewer mains in these locations are showing root intrusion, and poor pipe integrity consisting of pipe cracks and offset joints. RL

**\*\* A motion was made by Councilman Schmidlein, seconded by Councilwoman Simons, to solicit bids for the Sewer Slip Line Project 2017.**

*The motion passed unanimously. (4-0)*

### **III. SUBDIVISIONS**

- A. Review, consideration, and possible action to conditionally approve Final Plat No. 2-17 for the Great Basin Estates Phase 1B subdivision, filed by Parrado Partners LP, for the proposed division of approximately 15.804 acres, of which 1.897 acres of property will be divided into 12 lots with a remainder of 13.097 acres for residential development within an R (Single Family and Multiple Family Residential) Zoning District, and matters related thereto. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

The Planning Commission considered this item on March 7, 2017 and took action to forward a recommendation to City Council to conditionally approve the Final Plat 2-17. CL

Cathy Laughlin, City Planner, explained this was approved in May 2016. The final plat was split into two different phases. This is for phase 1B. There are some conditions in the memos included in the packet.

Councilman Keener asked if that encompasses just under 2 acres. (yes)

Jeremy Draper, Development Manager, talked about the flood area and the CLOMR that was just completed for this subdivision.

**\*\* A motion was made by Councilman Keener, seconded by Councilwoman Simons, to conditionally approve Final Plat No. 02-17, for the Great Basin Estates Phase 1B subdivision, subject to the conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission.**

*The motion passed unanimously. (4-0)*

#### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Review, consideration, and possible approval of an Agreement between the Elko Park Foundation Inc. and the City of Elko for the purposes of managing private funding sources for the proposed sports complex, and matters related thereto.  
**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

*At the February 14, 2017 Council meeting, City Council made a motion to table this item to a future Council meeting.*

The City is in the process of soliciting private funding to match other possible funding sources for the proposed sports complex. The City has requested that the Elko Park Foundation act as a “pass through” entity for the contributions. The purpose of the request is to ensure that potential contributors avoid any conflicts with company or corporate policies that may prohibit contributions to government entities, and to provide potential contributors with clear and concise tax advantage considerations. The agreement stipulates the foundation may withhold its actual administrative costs associated with management of the contributions. The Foundation may retain 2 percent of the contributions until the end of the fiscal year. Supporting documentation is required demonstrating that the costs withheld were actual and necessary administrative costs as defined in the agreement? A reconciliation of the retained funds is required by the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year. The agreement stipulates that the Foundation will donate all contributions, less retained funds, to the City within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter. JW

James Wiley, Parks and Recreation Director, explained the write up in the agenda is a good summary of what the agreement is. Staff, legal and Park Foundation all believe that this is a good solid agreement. At the last meeting Council had some questions about policies, procedures and how the foundation handles money. Kent Aveson from the Park Foundation is here to answer any questions.

Kent Aveson, 647 Spruce Road, President Park Foundation, said the Park Foundation has been quiet the last few years. He gave a brief overview of what they do and how they manage their money.

**\*\* A motion was made by Councilman Schmidlein, seconded by Councilwoman Simons, to approve the agreement between the Elko Park Foundation, Inc. and the City of**

**Elko for the purposes of managing private funding sources for the proposed Sports Complex.**

*The motion passed unanimously. (4-0)*

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Review, consideration, and possible approval of Revocable Permit 1-17, filed by McGinley & Associates on behalf of Hardy Enterprises, Inc., to occupy a portion of the Idaho Street Right-of-Way located adjacent to 1790 Idaho Street, to accommodate installation of three new monitoring wells, and matters related thereto. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

As part of an ongoing monitoring process being completed by McGinley and Associates, they would like to install, sample and maintain three new Groundwater Monitoring Wells which are proposed to be located in the City of Elko Right-of-Way. City Code requires they have a Revocable Permit to Occupy the Right-of-Way. CL

Cathy Laughlin, City Planner, explained within the last year we issued a similar permit to the same applicant. They were on the other side of the street. Now they are requesting three (3) additional locations in our right-of-way.

Ryan Limberg, Utilities Director, said the original packet requested six (6) wells. He did not approve three (3) of those locations because they were too close to our Well 14. He can support these three that are requested.

**\*\* A motion was made by Councilwoman Simons, seconded by Councilman Keener, to approve Revocable Permit 01-17, subject to execution of a standard license agreement between the applicant and the City of Elko.**

*The motion passed unanimously. (4-0)*

**VI. PETITIONS, APPEALS, AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Review, consideration, and possible acceptance of a petition filed by The Pointe at Ruby View, LLC for the waiver of installation of curb, gutter, and sidewalk in the proposed Bizkaia Subdivision and the proposed Bizkaia Boulevard serving the subdivision, and matters related thereto. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Per Elko City Code Section 2-13-3-(C), the applicant has filed a petition to have the requirement for curb, gutter, and sidewalk to be waived. The applicant is proposing a subdivision on a parcel of land that has a conditional approval for a zone change to be zoned Residential Suburban (RS). The local rural residential road standards described in Elko City Code 3-3-22 do not waive the requirement for curb and gutter, but allow for sidewalks to be of various materials. JD

**This item was withdrawn.**

## II. APPROPRIATIONS (Cont.)

- A. Review and possible approval of Warrants, and matters related thereto. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

**\*\* A motion was made by Councilman Keener, seconded by Councilman Schmidlein, to approve the warrants.**

*The motion passed unanimously. (4-0)*

## VII. REPORTS

- A. Mayor and City Council

*Councilman Keener said he visited several of the schools. There were squad cars at several of them and he thought that gave the schools a secure feeling.*

*Mayor Johnson reported on the Mayor's Day in Carson City. It was well attended by over ten mayors. Property tax values and the secondary calculation were big topics.*

*Councilwoman Simons will be gone for the next meeting.*

- B. City Manager

*Curtis Calder discussed the property tax abatement problem and the air service development bill. We are still trying to find more information regarding the river and its maintenance. We haven't come across anything that says there is an agreement and if anyone finds it, we would like to have a copy of it.*

- C. Assistant City Manager

- D. Utilities Director

*Ryan Limberg reported on the flows at the WRF.*

- E. Public Works

- F. Airport Director

- G. City Attorney

- H. Fire Chief

*Chief Griego had nothing new to report on the FEMA declarations. He offered to update as he gets more information.*

- I. Police Chief

*Chief Reed reported on an uptick of burglaries that included the Elko Swimming Pool and the Golf Course. One person has been retained at the JDC who appears to be responsible for the Golf Course burglary. His annual report is due to council and he is working on it.*

- J. City Clerk

- K. City Planner

*Cathy Laughlin reported on Redevelopment Association of Nevada paid membership fees this year and it went towards a brochure that will be handed out at Legislature. A bill has been introduced that can help with redevelopment projects and agencies by taking the Prevailing Wage threshold from \$100,000 to \$250,000. After that bill was introduced another bill was introduced that took the Public Works threshold down from \$250,000 to \$100,000. They don't think their bill will go anywhere.*

- L. Development Manager
- M. Administrative Services Director
- N. Parks and Recreation Director

*James Wiley reported on the 404 permit for the Sports Complex.*

- O. Civil Engineer
- P. Building Official

## COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Pursuant to N.R.S. 241, this time is devoted to comments by the public, if any, and discussion of those comments. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item on the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on a successive agenda and identified as an item for possible action. **ACTION WILL NOT BE TAKEN**

Richard Lespade said it is easy to get caught up in the anger over the property damages. People are taking this all so personal. There is a unique opportunity here. He doesn't think the people that were here would ever be satisfied. The flood came and the damages happened. It is easy to cast blame but we can take this information and learn from it.

There being no further business, Mayor Chris Johnson adjourned the meeting.

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Mayor Chris Johnson

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Shanell Owen, City Clerk

# City of Elko

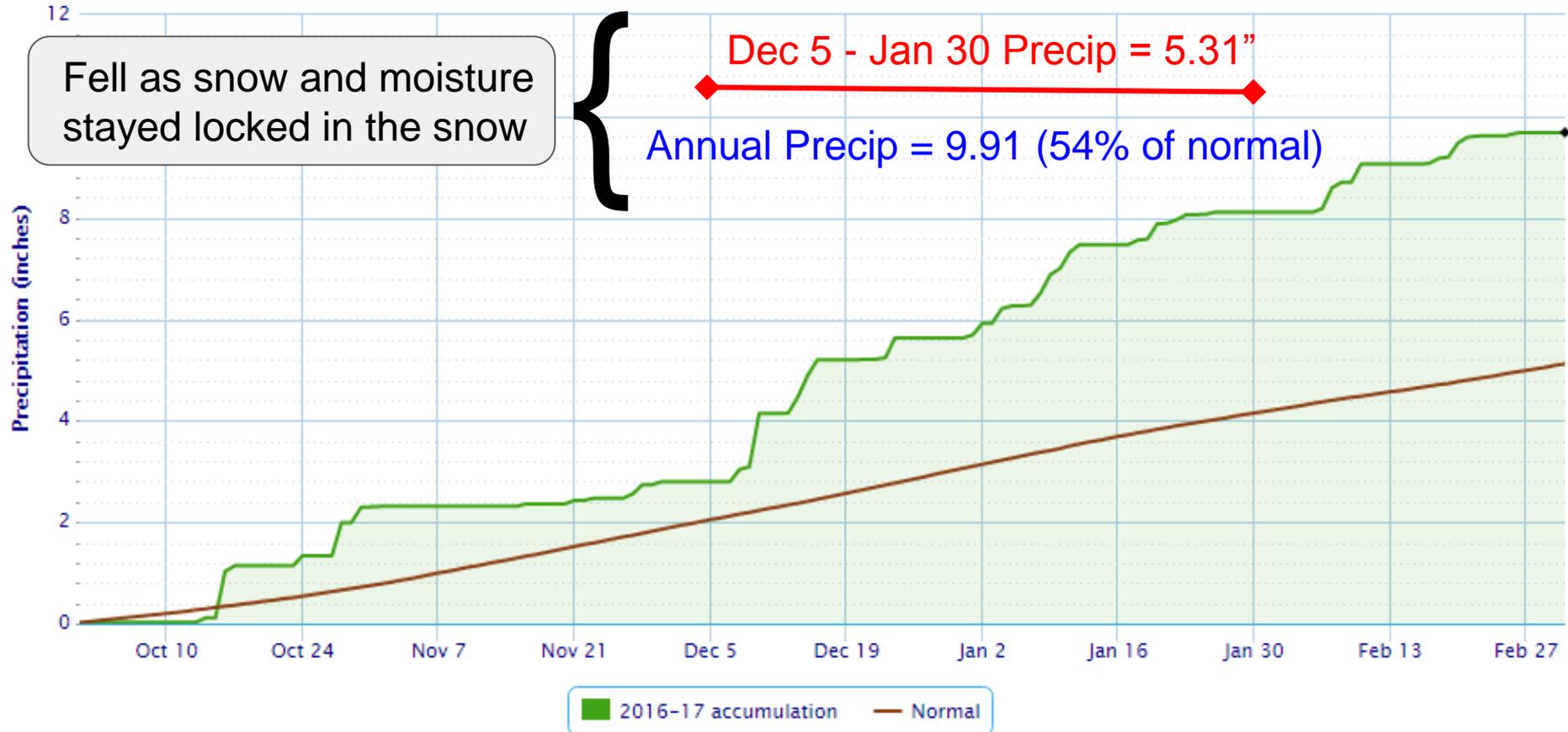
## Feb 2017 Flood Event



# Accumulated Precipitation - Elko Area, NV (ThreadEx)



Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

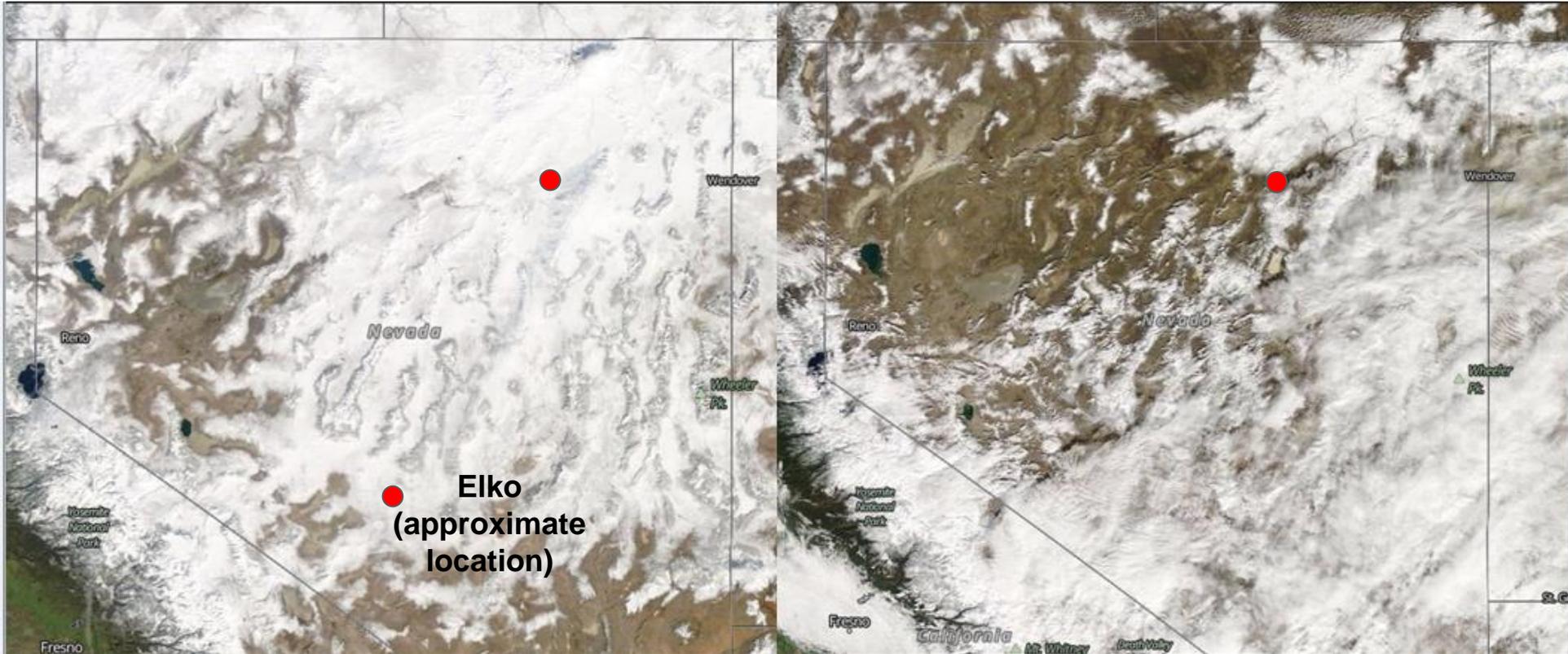


# Big changes in a short time period

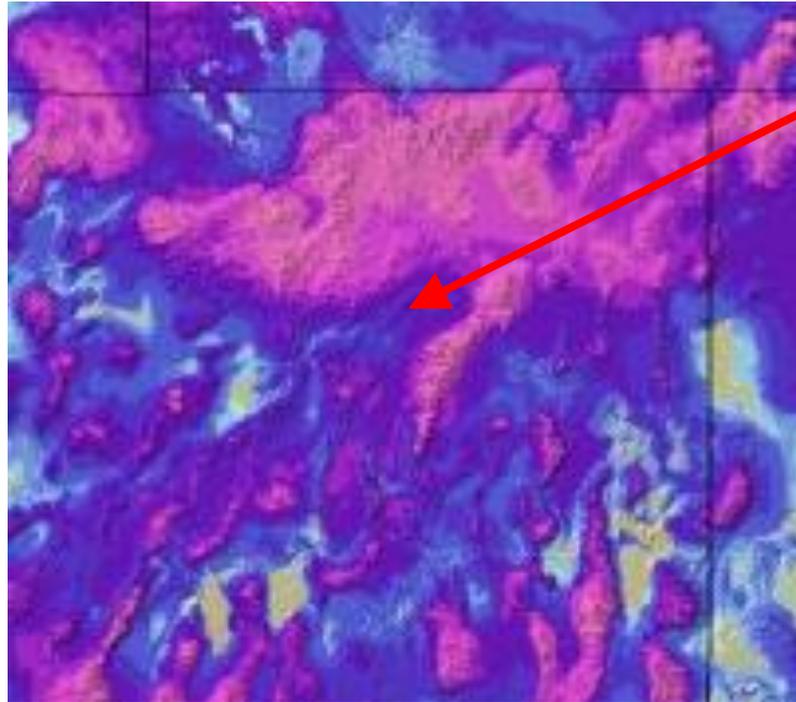
- Beginning of month
  - Normal temps (Feb 1)  
High 38/Low 15
  - Snow depth - 8 inches
- By Feb 8
  - Temperatures well above normal
  - 3 day rainfall of 0.59 inches (in addition to snow melt)
  - No snow depth (Trace)

=====													
1	2	3	4	5	6A	6B	7	8	9	10	11	12	1
										12Z	AVG	MX	2MIN
DY	MAX	MIN	AVG	DEP	HDD	CDD	WTR	SNW	DPTH	SPD	SPD	DIR	M
=====													
1	45	14	30	4	35	0	0.00	0.0	8	2.4	12	110	
2	43	25	34	8	31	0	T	T	6	4.2	10	70	
3	47	29	38	11	27	0	T	T	5	8.7	22	200	
4	48	30	39	12	26	0	0.00	0.0	4	4.0	15	170	
5	50	26	38	11	27	0	0.00	0.0	3	6.9	25	180	
6	51	36	44	17	21	0	0.07	0.0	1	1.0	24	220	
7	50	34	42	14	23	0	0.41	0.0	T	0.0	26	240	
8	48	29	39	11	26	0	0.11	0.0	T	2.8	12	250	
9	59	39	49	21	16	0	0.00	0.0	T	2.5	28	180	
10	49	34	42	14	23	0	0.36	0.0	0	5.8	16	270	
11	44	26	35	6	30	0	0.00	0.0	0	6.1	17	50	

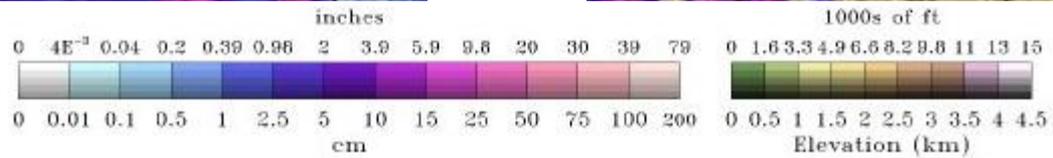
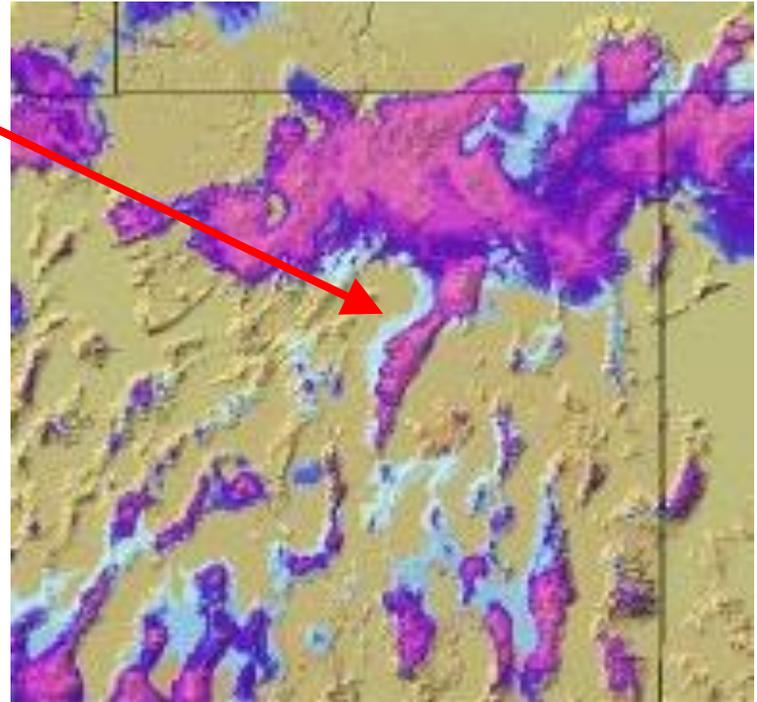
# Snowpack differences from Jan 28 (left) to Feb 11 (right)



# Differences in snow water equivalent (Left image: Jan 28; Right image: Feb 11)



Elko

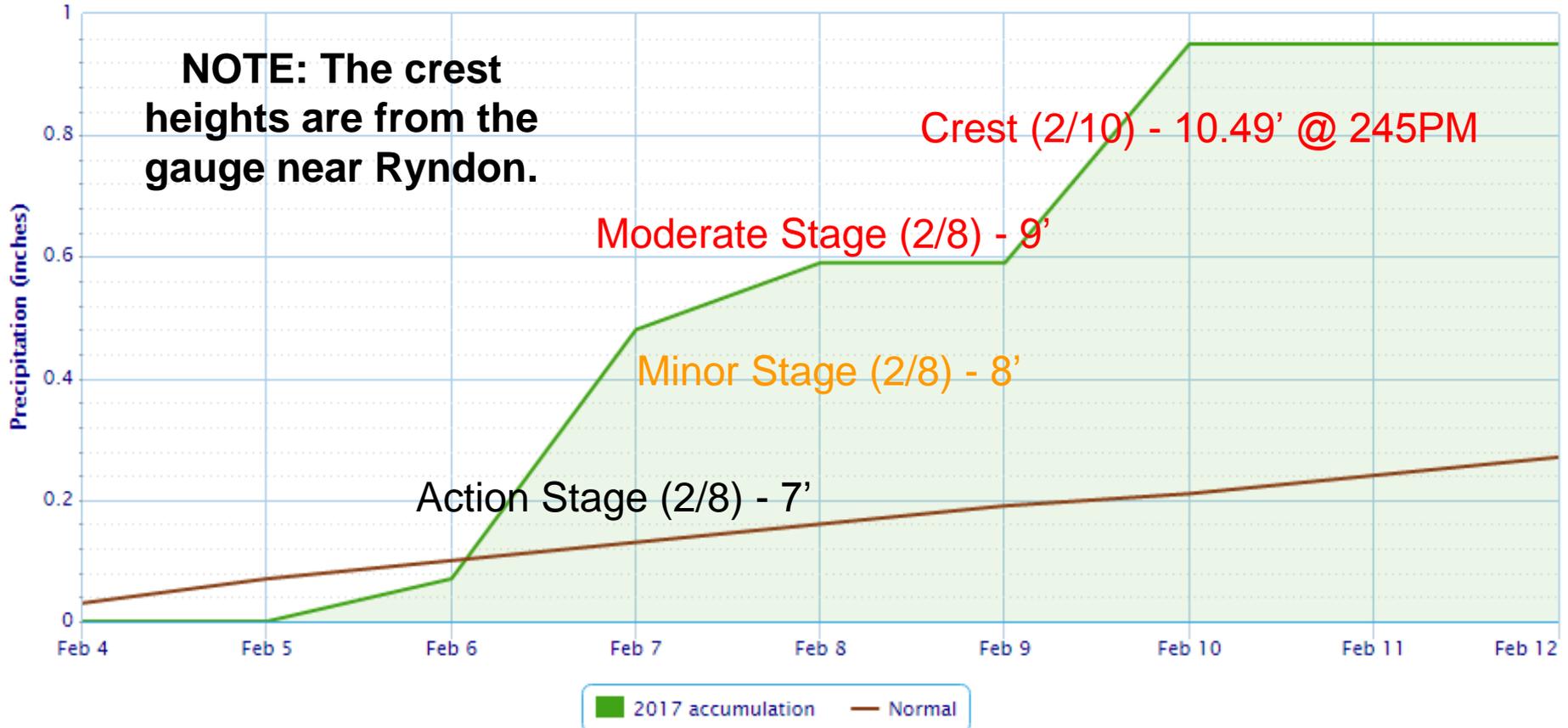


# Accumulated Precipitation – Elko Area, NV (ThreadEx)



Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

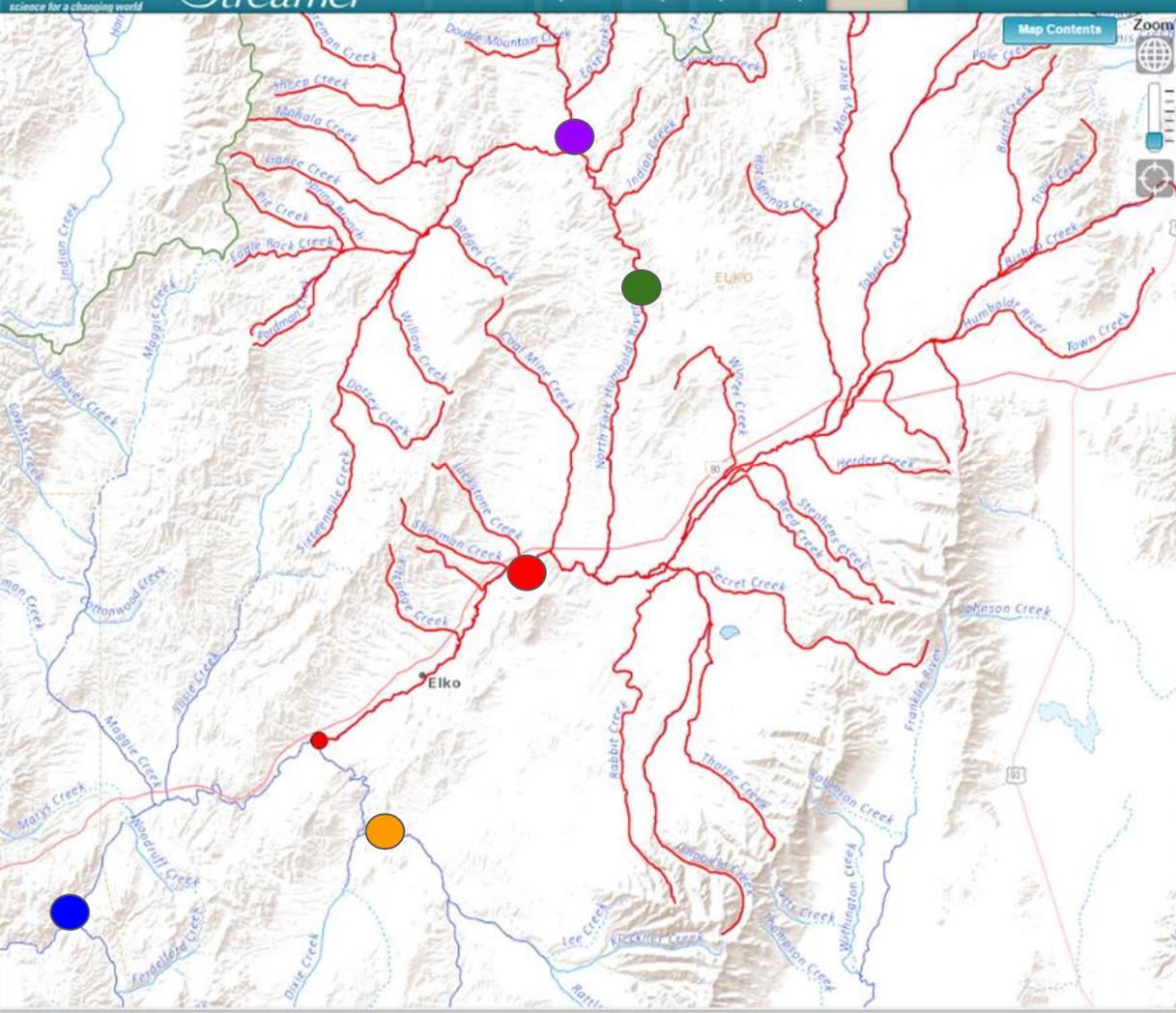
**NOTE: The crest heights are from the gauge near Ryndon.**



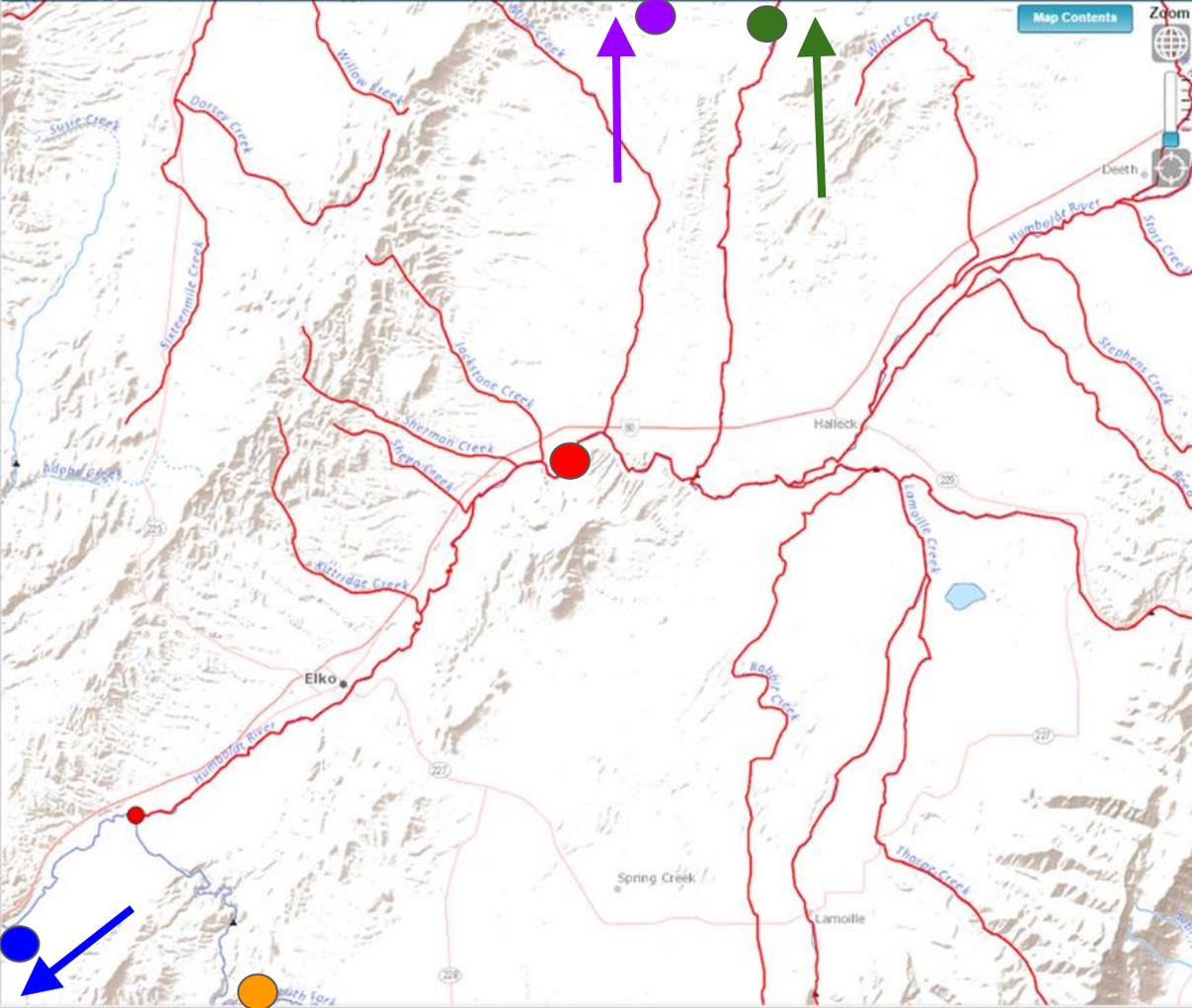
Daily rainfall = 0.07"

0.41"

0.11"

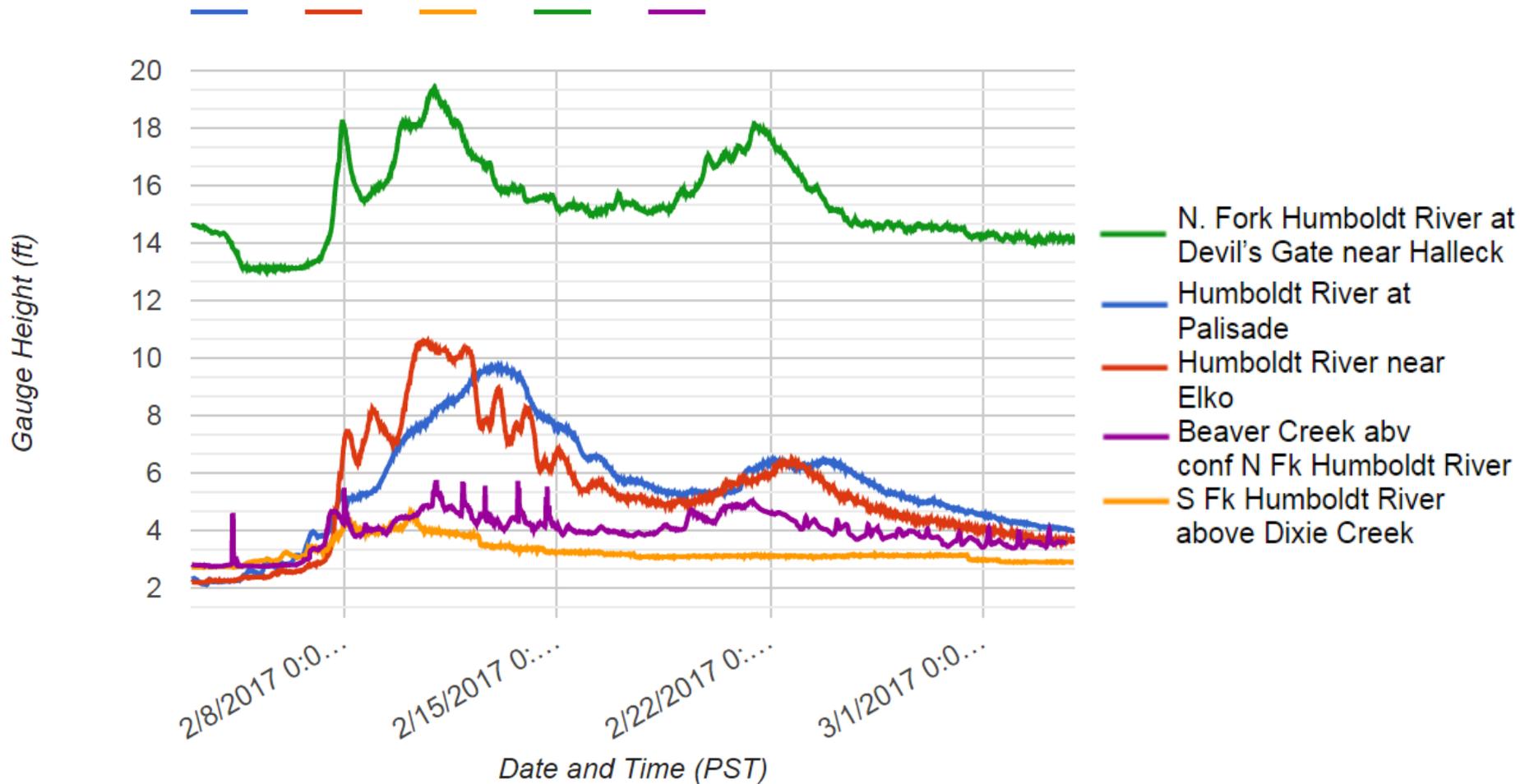


- Beaver Creek abv  
conf N Fk Humboldt River
- N. Fork Humboldt River at  
Devil's Gate near Halleck
- Humboldt River near  
Elko
- S Fk Humboldt River  
above Dixie Creek
- Humboldt River at  
Palisade

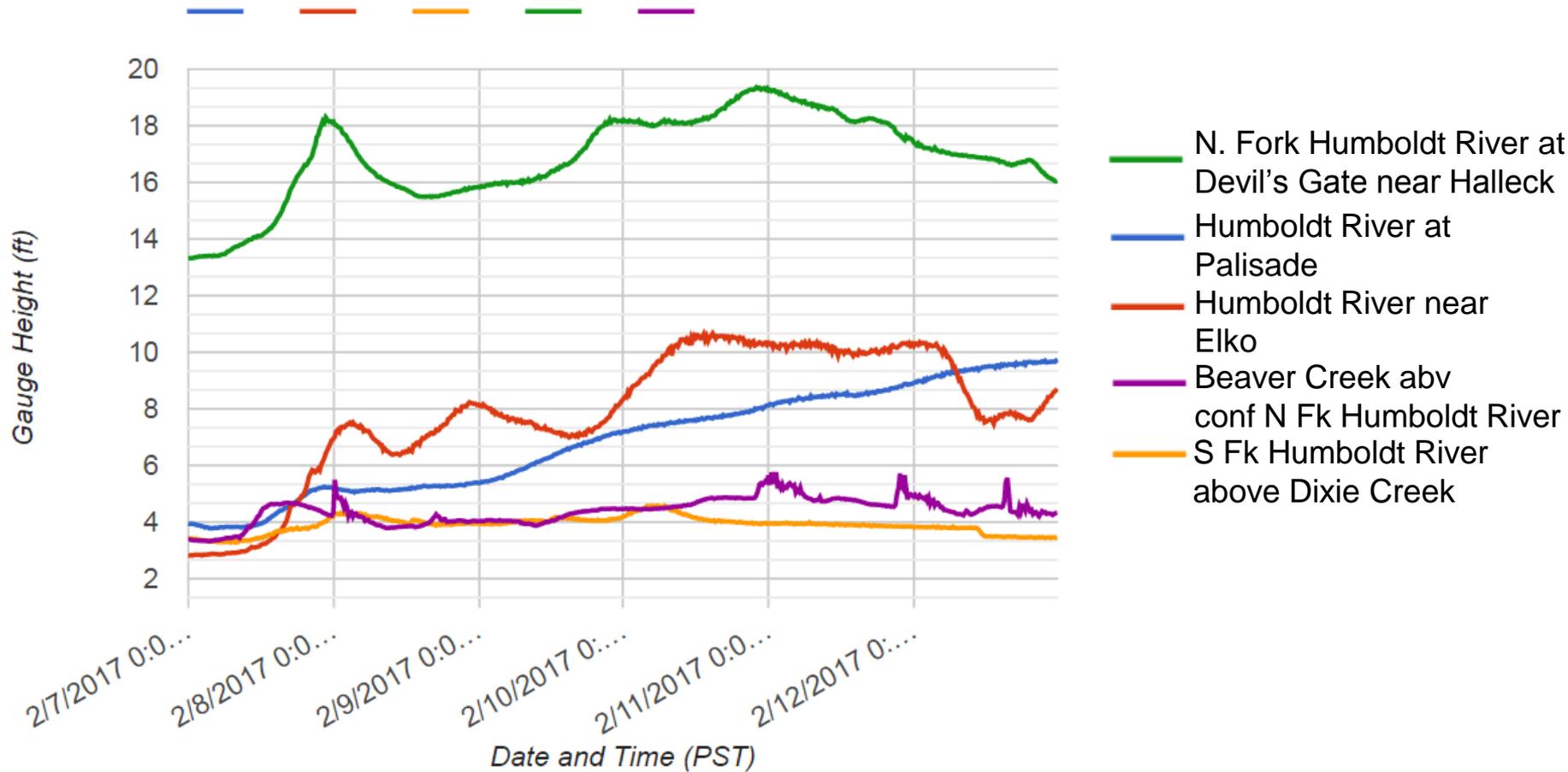


- Beaver Creek abv conf N Fk Humboldt River
- N. Fork Humboldt River at Devil's Gate near Halleck
- Humboldt River near Elko
- S Fk Humboldt River above Dixie Creek
- Humboldt River at Palisade

# Upper Humboldt River Gauges



# Upper Humboldt River Gauges



# How did this flood compare to historical records?

<b>Stage Height at Gauge (feet)</b>	<b>Date of Occurrence</b>
12.30	02/13/1962
12.18	03/04/1983
10.66*	02/10/2017 (245PM)*
10.22	05/17/1984
9.60	04/30/1952

\*Unofficial measurement



# City of Elko Flood Emergency Response Timeline

## **Tuesday, February 7 – Wednesday, February 8:**

- Public Works Department starts pumping water from low-lying areas.
- Daily flood situation updates between City Administration, Fire Chief, Police Chief, and Public Works Director.

## **Thursday, February 9:**

- Police and Fire Department Representatives attend flood update briefings at Elko County Sheriff's Office regarding regional & local flooding.
- Police, Fire, and Engineering Department evaluate condition of all Flood Control Detention Dams.
- Additional pumps and sand bags delivered to Public Works Department.

## Friday, February 10:

- Public Works Department deploys additional pumps and sandbags. 11 pumps deployed.
- City Administration visits FISH Thrift Store, Elko Regional Airport, Humanitarian Camp, and 8-Mile Creek Detention Dam.
- City Administration investigates multiple flood-related social media reports.
- 3:00 pm Flood Situation meeting held: City Administration, Fire, Police, Public Works, and Engineering Departments.
- 4:00 pm City Officials attend Elko County Regional Flood Meeting.
- 7:00 pm Police Department personnel directed to monitor flood situation overnight.
- Public Works, Water/Sewer Department Staff working 24-hour shifts.
- Water begins receding prior to 12:00 am.

## Saturday, February 11:

Sometime after 12:00 am, Humboldt River levels rise quickly and unexpectedly; additional flooding on south side of river occurs.

8:00 am Fire Chief attends regional flood update at Elko County Emergency Operations Center.

9:00 am Police Chief activates Emergency Operation Center and conducts briefing at Elko Police Department; Phone number established. City Manager notifies all City Council members. **City of Elko Disaster Operation Plan activated.**

9:00 am NDF Work Crews filling sandbags.

10:00 am Police Chief requests Emergency Shelter Activation and notifies Red Cross. Elko Centennial High School Gymnasium secured as shelter location.

10:10 am Police Officers deployed to bridges to keep traffic moving.

10:15 am Voluntary Evacuation begins. Police and Fire Department Teams go door-to-door within the flood zone to make personal contact with flood victims.

10:15 am Contact established with Reno area Red Cross Disaster Relief Coordinator.

10:20 am Nixle Alert #1 – Voluntary Evacuation.

10:30 am Contact established with Elko County School District.

11:00 am Nixle Alert #2 – Sand Bags Available.

11:00 am Press Conference #1.

11:45 am NV Energy begins shutting down electrical service in flood impacted areas; Nixle Alert #3 issued regarding electrical service.

## **Saturday, February 11 (continued):**

- 12:00 pm EOC Emergency Briefing conducted for City Council, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and Department Directors; Interview(s) with local media.
- 2:00 pm Emergency City Council Meeting held; **City Council declares local State of Emergency;** Interviews with local media.
- 2:00 pm Southwest Gas begins shutting down gas service to flood impacted area.
- 2:45 pm Rescue vessel on standby from NDOW.
- 4:00 pm Press conference #2.
- 6:15 pm LDS Volunteers (60+) completed sand bagging.
- 7:00 pm Elko Police patrol flood zone overnight with 2 teams.
- EOC staffed overnight.
- Public Works, Water/Sewer Department Staff continue working 24-hour shifts.
- Water Reclamation Facility Staff working 24-hour shifts.

## **Sunday, February 12:**

- 1:00 am Sand bags depleted.
- 9:00 am EOC Briefing for City and all affected agencies, utilities, and disaster management personnel.
- 9:45 am Southside Elementary School closed until further notice.
- 10:10 am Nixle Alert #4 – Sand Bags.

## **Sunday, February 12 (continued):**

- 10:20 am Nixle Alert #5 – Safety.
- 10:40 am Nixle Alert #6 – 8-mile Creek Flood Control Detention Dam.
- 11:00 am Press Conference #3.
- 11:05 am Red Cross Volunteers go door-to-door within the flood zone to make personal contact with flood victims.
- 11:35 am Medical Call – Carbon Monoxide poisoning.
- 1:25 pm Nixle Alert #7 – EOC Hours of Operation.
- 7:00 pm Medical Call – chest pains/emergency transport.

## **Monday, February 13:**

- 8:00 am EOC reopened/partial reactivation.
- 9:00 am EOC Briefing for City and all affected agencies, utilities, and disaster management personnel.
- 11:00 am Nixle Alert #8 – Red Cross Resource Center Established at Fire Station #2.
- 11:30 am Nixle Alert #9 – Humboldt River Status
- 11:45 am Nixle Alert #10 - Police and Fire Department Teams go door-to-door within the flood zone to make personal contact with flood victims.

## **Monday, February 13 (continued):**

- 12:00 pm EOC coordinated resources from Linkan Engineering and Team Rubicon for flood victims requesting assistance.
- 12:30 pm Press Conference #4.
- 1:00 pm Press Release #1 – City Manager
- 1:00 pm Disaster Recovery meeting: Police, Fire, and Building Departments w/Team Rubicon and Linkan Engineering.
- 4:00 pm EOC Briefing for City and all affected agencies, utilities, and disaster management personnel.
- 5:30 pm EOC closed for day; EOC number remains active.

## **Tuesday, February 14:**

8:00 am EOC reopened/partial reactivation.

9:00 am Public Works Department and Elko Sanitation begin placing roll-off trash containers in flood zone.

9:00 am EOC Briefing for City and all affected agencies, utilities, and disaster management personnel.

9:00 am Public Works Department still pumping flood impacted areas.

9:15 am City Building Department, NV Energy, and School District inspecting Southside Elementary School for possible re-energization.

**Tuesday, February 14 (continued):**

10:00 am Fire Department coordinating 4 NDF Crews to reposition sand bags.

10:00 am Red Cross activates Field Tent at 6<sup>th</sup> and Wilson Streets.

10:30 am Nixle Alert # 11 – Trash Dumpsters Available

10:30 am Nixle Alert #12 – EOC Information

11:00 am Elko Fire Department patrolling flood zone.

12:00 pm US Postal Service, Fed Ex, UPS holding deliveries.

3:00 pm Press Release #2 – City Manager

**END OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE – TRANSITION TO RECOVERY BEGINS**

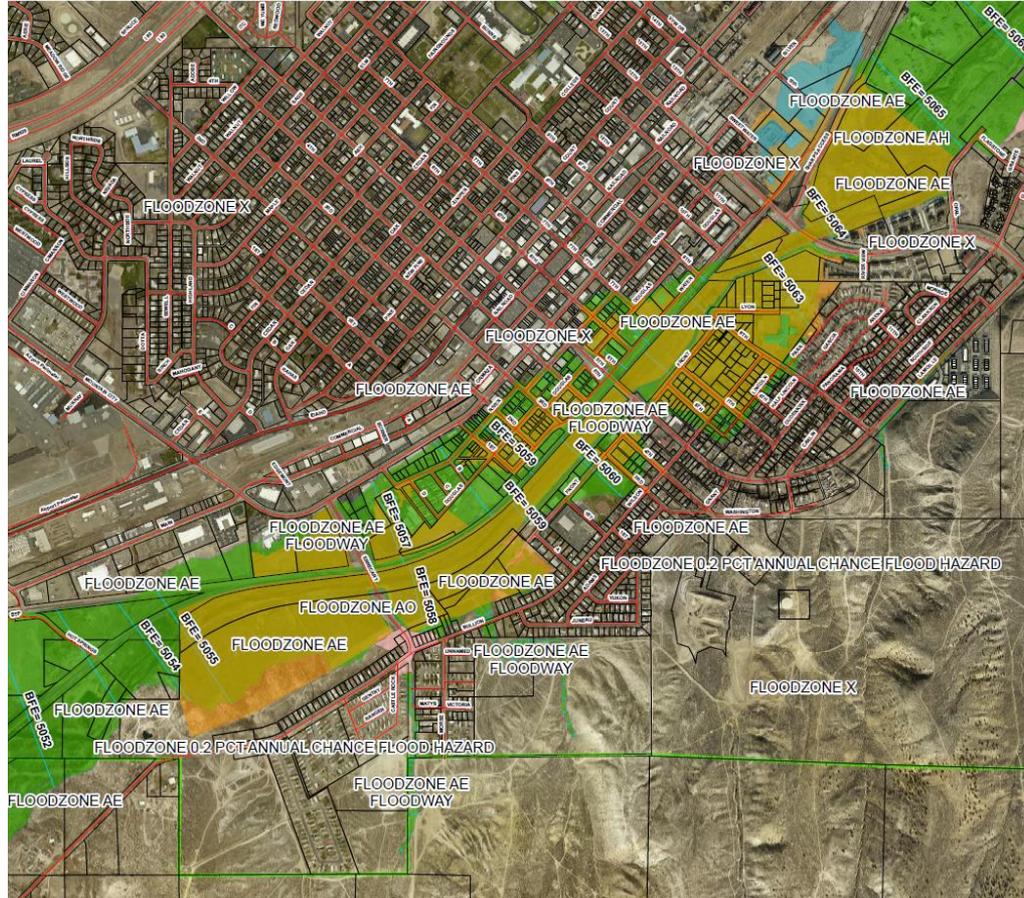
# Key Observations

- Humboldt River levels appear higher than recent flood events; City river gauge inundated.
- Post-flood high water mark measured at 5,060' elevation, 7' above the bottom of storm drain infrastructure (5,053').
- More storm drains impacted than recent flood events; HARP Pathway appears “topped” near 12<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge; south side of river already flooded prior to overflow.
- No Reverse 911 System to assist with evacuations and/or dissemination of information.
- USGS Ryndon river gauge (upstream) does not measure flow generated from Adobe and/or Elko Mountains; Jackstone Creek, Sherman Creek, Sheep Creek, Kittridge Creek, 8-mile Creek, Adobe Creek, etc. All creeks were at or above flood stage.
- Elko Regional Airport's recent drainage improvements prevented flood damage from Adobe Creek.

# Key Observations (continued)

- City of Elko Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) experienced extremely high flows starting on February 11 and lasting until February 15.
- WRF permitted for a peak daily flow of 5.1 Million Gallons Per Day; Peak flows during the flood event exceeded 11 Million Gallons Per Day.
- The additional “inflow” is attributed to submerged manhole covers and homeowner sewer cleanouts within the flood zone.
- All water entering the WRF was pumped through the treatment process, but effluent pumps reach capacity at 6.7 Million Gallons Per Day; treated water overflowed into emergency storage locations.
- Overflows were reprocessed as WRF plant intake returned to normal; Report submitted to NDEP on February 14.

# 100 YEAR FEMA FLOOD MAP VS. OBSERVED FLOODING



**Green/Blue = FEMA Flood Hazard Area**  
**Orange/Yellow = Observed Flood Area**

**NOTE: USGS Determines Final Flood Designation**

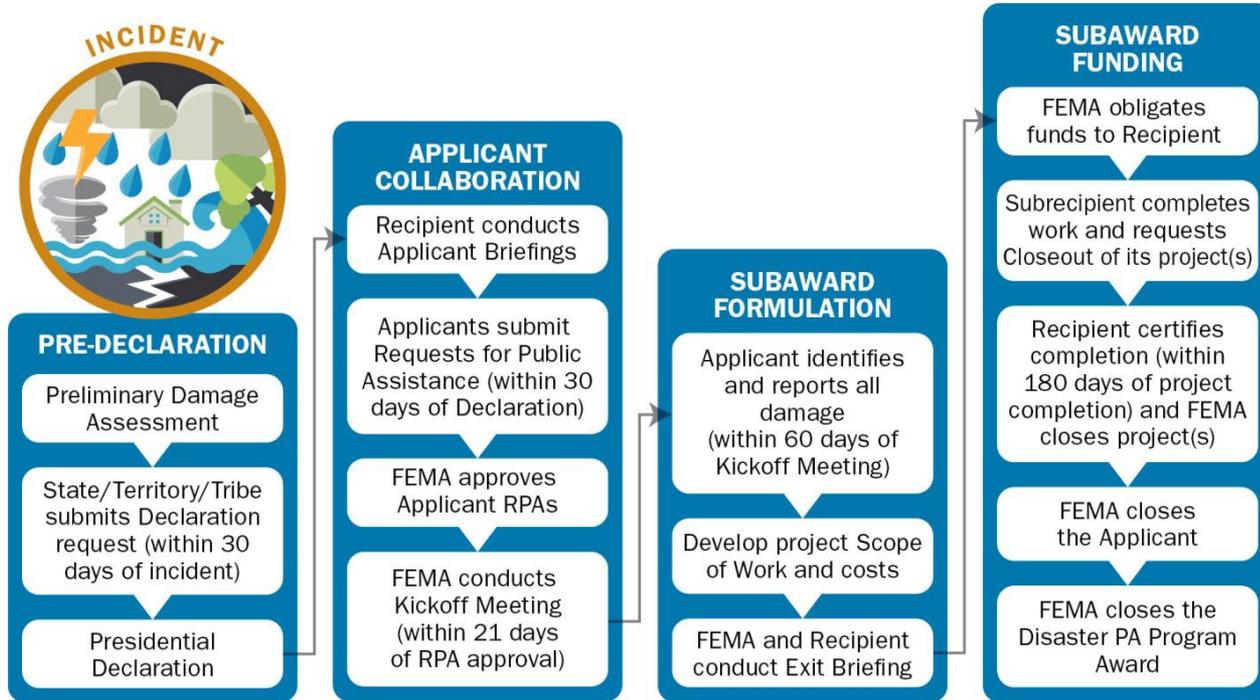
# Disaster Recovery Efforts

- A Red Cross Resource Center was established at Elko Fire Station #2 on February 13 to coordinate necessary resource needs for flood victims; Red Cross emergency storage area established at Elko Regional Airport.
- The City of Elko and Elko Sanitation deployed construction debris roll-off containers in the flood impacted areas starting February 14.
- The City of Elko Building Department coordinated the restoration of electricity and natural gas service in affected areas starting February 14; approximately 200 inspections performed to date.
- Volunteer efforts coordinated through the City of Elko Emergency Operations Center starting February 11; Team Rubicon leading volunteer clean-up efforts February 18 – 20.
- The City of Elko Animal Control patrolled the flood area to provide necessary assistance with missing animals and related issues starting on February 14; Animal Shelter coordinating w/Animal Control.
- Public Communication: 12 Nixle Alerts; 4 Press Conferences; 6 Press Releases; Emergency City Council Meeting on February 11; Regional Flood Update on February 14 City Council Meeting; multiple door-to-door visits by Police/Fire Departments, Red Cross Volunteers, and City Staff; numerous media interviews.

# Damage Assessment Phase

- City Officials attend Elko County meeting to discuss the collection, tabulation, and submission of emergency response data to the State and Federal agencies (February 15).
- Rapid Damage Assessment Teams deployed throughout City to assess damage to City infrastructure February 11 - 17.
- The City of Elko submits initial Emergency Response/Response Phase Costs to Elko County Support Service Manager by February 17.
- NGO private property damage assessments conducted by Red Cross.
- City Officials attend second Elko County meeting to discuss the collection, tabulation, and submission of emergency response data to the State and Federal agencies (February 22).
- State of Nevada Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Team tours City of Elko on February 23.
- State of Nevada DEM & FEMA Ground Team tours public infrastructure on March 2; Individual Assessment Team (State of Nevada/FEMA/Small Business Administration) tours private property on March 3.
- Thresholds have been met to receive assistance from FEMA. Declaration signed by Governor's office and forwarded to President Trump for signature. Approximate time for signature is 14 days

# FEMA Public Assistance Program Implementation Process for Local Agency Assistance



## **FEMA INDIVIDUAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS & INFORMATION**

<https://www.fema.gov/individual-disaster-assistance>

Homeowners, renters, and business owners who had disaster losses should register online for disaster assistance at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) or call the FEMA registration line at: **1.800.621.FEMA** (3362) (TTY 1.800.462.7585).

## **National Flood Insurance Program**

The National Flood Insurance Program offers insurance for flood coverage. Homes and businesses with mortgages from federally regulated or insured lenders in high-risk flood areas are required to have flood insurance. While flood insurance is not federally required if you live in a moderate- to low-risk flood area, it is still available and strongly recommended.

[https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/commercial\\_coverage/cc\\_overview.jsp](https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/commercial_coverage/cc_overview.jsp)

# Estimated City of Elko Costs

Labor - Exempt and Hourly	52,356.64
Debris Removal - Roll offs	61,320.00
10 rolloffs emptied 3 times daily for 4 days at 12.5 tons/each	
Pumps	19,000.00
Sand	7,227.65
Supplies	379.82
Streets Damage	601,409.00
Culvert Damage	90,000.00
Truck Engine	7,500.00
Parks	30,000.00
Total Estimated Costs	869,193.11

# Questions From February 28 Public Comment Period

- When was river the highest? According to the National Weather Service, the Humboldt River was the highest on February 13, 1962.
- Who installed the culvert at 12<sup>th</sup> Street? Project Lifesaver and HARP Pathway Project files currently under review.
- Accumulated rocks/dredging? Project Lifesaver files under review; interviews with former City employees underway.
- Why haven't storm drains been addressed? Project Lifesaver files under review; interviews with former City employees underway.
- Why no free vouchers to the Landfill? Free construction debris roll-off containers were placed in the flood impacted areas. Vouchers may be considered in the future.

# Questions (continued)

- Where was the Mayor? Mayor Chris Johnson reported to the Emergency Operations Center on Saturday, February 11 and attended multiple EOC and Staff briefings thereafter. Mayor Johnson attended Mayor's Day at the Nevada Legislature on February 28 at the request of the Nevada League of Cities. Mayor Johnson has worked with Senator Goicoechea to secure DEM and FEMA assistance.
- Status of gauge in the river? The City river gauge was inundated early on February 11. Post-flood measurements have been recorded.
- Where are we going from here? City is preparing for future flooding events and reviewing all Project Lifesaver and HARP Pathway Project files. City is coordinating flood relief efforts with County, State, and Federal agencies.
- Why not an agenda item? The City conducted an Emergency Declaration meeting on February 11, gave a detailed flood report on February 14, and rescinded the Declaration on February 28. Until February 28, the City had received no requests for a specific agenda item.

# Questions (continued)

- Why haven't the Police responded? The Elko Police Department was actively engaged in flood response efforts and has been responsive to calls for service. The Elko Police Department actively patrols flood damaged areas.
- Has anyone on the City Council been to damaged homes? Yes, multiple City Council members have been to flood damaged homes and toured flood impacted areas.
- Is the City planning on managing volunteers? Yes, the City has, and will continue to manage and/or facilitate appropriate volunteer groups. Future volunteer efforts will be coordinated through the EOC (if applicable).
- Why/when were gate (or backflow) valves removed? Unknown at this time. Project Lifesaver files under review; interviews with former City employees underway.
- Why were pumps not running on Friday evening, February 10? Eleven pumps were deployed and 9 person crews were monitoring pump operations. All pumps intakes were checked regularly and pumps were refueled when necessary.

# PUBLIC COMMENT



Good Afternoon Mr. Mayor and City Council.

I stand before you today with many questions regarding this last month past flood of a portion of our town.

The demographics of each in each town anywhere there are made up of both low income properties and high income properties. The southern side of town are older homes and do cost less to own. Yes, the flooded area happens to be the low income area. But may I remind each of us here today that this is all that some of these people have in the world. Some have owned their homes for a lifetime. Some are just new families that are just starting out and these homes are all they can afford. But still they have a home of their own. Something they are proud of. As a proud home owner they have put everything they have into these homes and my I add business also. But one day in February everything they have is under water. Proud people yes but yet everything is lost. They must start over for they have no where else to go.

But may I remind you that these people and their homes and Business are of no less importance. These are still people of this town "our town". They have elected you to represent them and lead them and protect them. That pay their taxes and pay the storm drain fees on their water bills. On this day we looked to our City Fathers and our City Council for help in our time of need. Yes, we did see as you drive by in

**Exhibit "B"**

a truck to look at the flood waters along with all the other people driving down there to take pictures of the destruction and mayhem. Which only caused more waves and more water to enter their homes and basements. Yet we saw no traffic control, no police protecting any of our remaining possession while they had to flee our homes, businesses, and flood waters.

I remember one evening on my way home from work listening to the radio, a recap of Lori Gilbert interviewing either the City Manager or a City Councilmen, not recalling which person for sure, and a discussion about the storm drains. They were saying they needed upgrading and maybe adding some different pumping system to stop the collection of water in the low lying areas of the town. Any that they would be trying to find some solutions to this problem hopefully before the next high water year. Unfortunately, that time has arrived. As we see the very large sand bags covering the storm drain caps in the road. We have found out that "Yes" the system is still not adequate enough to pump the water flow out of town and ask ourselves were there any changes done to the system at all or was that all just talk on the radio for show.

Next while I research the Humboldt Are River Project (HARP) documents. I find several things that perplex me. The first being that the river does indeed silt in. This silting causes the river canal depth to change. Thus in a high water year we have more water with less of a river channel to carry the water downstream. These documents clearly state maintenance to the new Humboldt River channel be done on a

yearly basis to prevent silting and keep the channel from flooding. Then I find documentation stating that dredging has caused harm to the habitat and wildlife. Thus per a resolution that there would be no more dredging and there WOULD be planting of indigenous plants for wildlife habitat. It appears to me that we have traded people homes and business for Riparian Habitat.

There is a beautiful walkway along the River Corridor which people use it all the time. There are culverts under the walkway. Thirty years ago there were flappers in place as you call it. These flapper prevented the waters from flowing either way. As stated by you the City Council at the last meeting the flappers were removed from the culvers because you could not easily access them because of the plant growth and trash. Would that the plant growth be the same that (HARP) planted for the Wildlife Habitat?

Also I have notice that when I walk the river pathway it tends slopes down about 4 feet at the 12<sup>th</sup> street Bridge. At that point are two culverts side by side. The water entered these culverts and dumped into a small ditch adjacent to Parcel 001-630-018 owned by TOP LLC. out of Eugene OR. I see by the sandbags there which indicates that this small ditch did not accommodate the flow of water that came thru the culverts let alone the water that came over the bank there because the walkway dips 3 to 4 ft. I ask, why would the walkway dip down in this area to allow the river to come over the bank there and flood everyone below 12<sup>th</sup> Street on the south side of the river? Really, was it engineered this way when it was designed or did someone change the walkway to dip there below the rest of the walkway?

Question 1: Where were the municipalities in the hour of need: (CITY, POLICE and SHERIFF 'S?)

Question 2: Did we trade people, homes & business for NATURAL RIPIAN HABITAT?

Question 3: If the flood came on so fast. How did you know to put the sand bags on the drainage system? But, you didn't have time to put the "flappers: as you call them in the culverts? It was the mostly the culvers that just let the water in. Let's just open the water gates and see who sinks & who swims!

Question 4: Who changed the walkway to dip and be lower than the rest of the walkway at 12<sup>th</sup> street?

Lastly: Mr. Mayor & Council. My question to you all of you is, WHAT is your plan to protect the people from a flood again, for that matter what is your plan for any disaster of this city.

*Sent 13 Mar. 17*

Patty Meyer  
440 So. 6th St.  
Elko, NV 89801  
775-738-4764

Dear Governor Sandoval,

I live in Elko, Nevada and have lived in the same house for 39 years, without incident. The Humboldt river flooded, at least 100 homes were affected, and I have been searching for a reason why.

The history. The first train ran on the newly relocated tracks in 1983. The relocation was known as 'Project Lifesaver'. During that time the river was straightened and put into a well thought out channel built with flood prevention in mind. Dikes were built and storm drains were installed. There were flood gates with cast iron 'doors' for closing when the water got high. At the time, it was determined that the channel would require annual maintenance such as de-silting, cleaning debris out of the drains and general inspecting. The City has done NO maintenance. Many years ago, rather than conduct annual inspections, de-silting and cleaning the drains regularly, the City opted to simply remove the cast iron 'doors', throw them aside, and considered the problem resolved. All that did was leave large culverts to pour the river into the neighborhood. The channel was designed to flow 12,500 cubic feet per second. According to the USGS, it peaked at just under 7,000 cfs on Feb 10-12, 2017. The City says that the flood was an act of nature. It was NOT an act of nature that the cast iron 'doors' installed to protect from flooding were removed. I feel it has been a severe dereliction of duty on the City's part to not put the 'doors' on and perform the required maintenance or install manual flood gates. This flood should NOT have happened. The City told us that they knew the 'doors' had been removed and I believe they have been extremely negligent in not correcting the problem, but choosing to ignore it.

We still have the Spring thaw coming so are we to just sit here and wait for the next flood? It has been over a month since the river poured into our neighborhood and the City has done NOTHING to resolve the missing flood gate 'doors' problem.

I believe the channel should be brought back into compliance with the standards that were in place after 'Project Lifesaver'.

The City seems to have 'lost' the document that contains the agreement that the City had with the State when the channel was turned over to the City by the State.

I appreciate your time. I hope this is investigated and the channel is brought back to the appropriate standards in place 30 years ago. We desperately need it.

Sincerely,

Patty Meyer  
Attn: 2 attachments

Exhibit "C"





TOP