Ivins City Staff Report
City Council Meeting 12/18/2025

Agenda Item: Discuss and consider approval of surplus fill dirt material in Red Mountain Dam #6

Submitted by: Charles R Gillette, P.E., City Manager

Recommended City Council Action:
Approve surplus of fill dirt material in Red Mountain Dam #6

BACKGROUND:

The Red Mountain Dams are located on the north side of Ivins City along Red Mountain. They were constructed in the 1970s as sediment and debris basins to protect Ivins City from flooding and, more importantly, from the sediment and debris that accompany such flooding. The City is responsible for maintaining these structures, which includes the periodic removal of accumulated sediment.

From time to time, developers working with contractors require fill material for development projects. In most cases, contractors are willing to purchase the sediment and remove it from the basins at their own expense in exchange for the clean fill material. The City has received such an offer from a contractor. Before accepting this offer, City Council authorization is required.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS:

At this time, the City cannot publicly share the current bid proposal received from the contractor. The City has issued an advertisement requesting letters of interest from other contractors who may wish to bid on the material.

As the City Council is considering whether to authorize this initiative, there are several issues and potential adverse impacts that should be considered:

- **Toe Trail Disruption:** The only basin that still contains a significant amount of accumulated sediment is Dam #6. This dam is over one mile long and is commonly known as the Toe Trail. It is an important recreational amenity in Ivins City and is heavily used by walkers, hikers, and cyclists. Sediment removal would disrupt use of the trail for approximately 6 to 8 weeks.
- **Tortoise Habitat Impacts:** Dam #6 is located entirely within designated desert tortoise habitat. To protect the tortoise, any work must occur during the tortoise inactive season, which generally runs from December 15 through February 15. These dates may vary slightly depending on weather conditions and tortoise activity.
- **Fugitive Dust Impacts:** The City would require the contractor to control fugitive dust in accordance with applicable standards. However, despite best efforts and water use, some dust generation is unavoidable and may be a source of frustration for nearby residents.
- **Truck Traffic Impacts:** The project would involve a significant number of large trucks entering and exiting the basin at the access point located at 350 North and 100 East. This

entrance is within a residential neighborhood, and truck traffic would have a notable impact on nearby residents.

The most recent major storm events in 2012 and 2014 deposited a substantial amount of sediment into the basins. Since that time, the City has completed two sediment extraction efforts. The City has intentionally avoided removing all sediment in a single operation due to the significant impacts such activities have on residents and sensitive habitat. Limiting each extraction to no more than one-third of the basin has helped reduce impacts to the desert tortoise.

The basins are designed to hold a large volume of sediment. It is estimated that Dam #6 is currently approximately 25% full relative to its design capacity. As a result, there is no urgent need to remove the sediment at this time. That said, the material will ultimately need to be removed at some point, whether now or in the future and it may be in the City's best interest to pursue this current offer.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- None

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The City would receive a substantial financial benefit from the project, estimated to be between $100,000 and $200,000. The City is considering completing unbudgeted storm drain work on 400 East in conjunction with the adjacent development, and these funds could help offset those unexpected costs.

Respectfully Submitted: Charles R. Gillette

Chuck Gillette, City Manager