



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Wilmington District

## Princeville, NC (Flood Risk Management)

- **Sponsor: State of North Carolina**
- **Project received \$1.5 million of emergency supplemental funding in FY 2000 to conduct reconnaissance and cost-shared feasibility studies**
- **Feasibility cost sharing agreement executed in July 2002**
- **Waiver received to develop an implementable plan where benefits do not exceed the costs**
- **Preparation of draft feasibility report underway**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 1

DATE: 8 April 2013

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** Public Law 106-246, 13 July 2000.
2. **STUDY AREA:** The town of Princeville is located on the Tar River in Edgecombe County, NC. The study area includes that portion of the Tar River basin that may impact flooding in the vicinity of Princeville. This study is being conducted as a result of Executive Order 13146 in February 2000 which established the "President's Council on the Future of Princeville" and directed it to "enhance the future of Princeville and its citizens" and make "recommendations to repair and rebuild Princeville, and to the extent practicable, protect Princeville from future floods."
3. **IMPROVEMENTS DESIRED BY LOCAL INTERESTS:** The town of Princeville suffered extensive damage from flooding due to Hurricane Floyd in 1999. The local governments and the state expressed interest in investigating incremental improvements to the existing Continuing Authorities Program Section 205 flood risk management project constructed in 1967. Alternative measures such as extension of the existing levee, installing backflow devices on highway culverts, and raising roads would reduce a significant amount of the remaining risk to public safety and property, which is caused by flooding from the Tar River.
4. **COST ESTIMATE:**  
\$ 100,000 (Reconnaissance/Federal)  
1,885,000 (Feasibility/Federal)  
1,725,000 (Feasibility/non-Federal)  
\$3,710,000 Total

PROJECT INFORMATION – Princeville, NC (Flood Risk Management) – Continued

5. **FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION THRU FY 2012:** \$ 1,551,500.
6. **FY 2013 BUDGET REQUEST:** \$0. Federal carry-in funds and reprogrammed funds (\$208,500) are being used to complete a draft feasibility report, public and NEPA review, and an independent external peer review.
7. **FY 2014 BUDGET AMOUNT:** \$0. Funds in the amount of \$225,000 could be used to complete the final feasibility report.
8. **KEY DATES:** July 2002 (Completed reconnaissance phase)  
October 2014 (Feasibility phase, subject to the availability of funds)
9. **OTHER INFORMATION:** The town of Princeville has a unique historic and cultural importance in American history as the first town in the United States founded by ex-slaves. After the extensive damage the town suffered from flooding due to Hurricane Floyd, President Clinton signed an Executive Order (E.O. 13146) in February 2000 which led to the initiation of studies to identify flood risk management alternative measures. The result was a final report, dated October 2011, that recommended implementation of a “Most Responsive Identified Flood Risk Reduction Plan”. This report did not undergo the usual alternative formulation briefing, or public/NEPA review required for decision documents being provided to Congress. Currently, a draft feasibility report is being developed based on a waiver from ASA(CW) in July 2012 to develop a decision document where the benefits do not need to exceed the costs.

The town of Princeville suffered frequent and severe flooding, up until the construction of a Corps’ Section 205 Continuing Authorities Program project (1967), which was based, on the “Design Event” (historical flood event) of 1919. The town did not suffer severe flooding between construction of the project in 1967 and Hurricane Floyd in 1999 (32 years). Hurricane Floyd (a greater than 0.2% event) caused catastrophic flooding of the town, and loss of a significant number of residences and homes. Up to twenty feet of water stood in the town for 10 days until the water could be pumped out of the community.

Immediately following the flood event, numerous Federal agencies including FEMA, HUD, SBA, USDA and the Department of Labor provided millions of dollars for recovery and reconstruction of the town. That investment still remains at risk from large floods.

The town is ethnic (over 95% African-American) and economically disadvantaged (per capita income ~\$11,500, versus \$27,041 for U.S. - 43% of national average). Approximately 2,000 people are exposed to public / life safety issues associated with the potential for flooding. The average structure value (~\$76,000, versus \$185,400 for U.S.), is less than half (41%) of the national average, making economic justification based on national economic development (NED) analysis alone impossible for this community.

## PROJECT INFORMATION – Princeville, NC (Flood Risk Management) – Continued

The Corps has identified a plan that would contain a 1% annual chance event with 95% assurance, but the benefits do not exceed the costs (estimated at \$31 million) for this plan, with benefits to cost (B/C) ratio of 0.5 to 1. Major components of the plan include extending the northern end of the existing levee, raising roadways and modifying roadway intersections, and installing backflow devices on culverts that cross through the existing project.