



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 the benefits do not exceed the costs**
- **Preparation of final feasibility report underway**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 1

DATE: 23 February 2015

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.

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 \$18.6 million; \$21.1 million fully-funded) for this plan, with a benefit-cost (B/C) ratio of 0.98 to 1. Major components of the plan include extending a portion of the existing levee to the east to improve the level of flood reduction provided to the main historic area of Princeville; raising roadways and raising a highway

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interchange, installation of a shoulder dike on a low spot along the Highway 64 by-pass, and installation of backflow devices on culverts that pass through the existing project levee.

4. **COST ESTIMATE:** \$100,000 (Reconnaissance/Federal)  
1,880,000 (Feasibility/Federal)  
1,780,000 (Feasibility/non-Federal)  
\$3,760,000 Total
5. **FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION THRU FY 2014:** \$ 2,059,000.
6. **FY 2015 FUNDING ALLOCATION:** \$0. Carry-in funds are being used to complete the feasibility phase.
7. **FY 2016 BUDGET AMOUNT:** \$0.
8. **KEY DATES:** July 2002 (Completed reconnaissance phase)  
February 2016 (Tentative schedule to complete feasibility phase)
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 Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) working draft, dated November 2013 that recommended implementation of the most cost-effective plan that answers the Executive Order's directive, and meets current Corps guidance with the exception of having a benefit-cost ratio in excess of unity. This report has not yet undergone 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. The town retained approximately 20 feet of water until pumps were used to remove floodwaters.

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 ~\$12,024, versus \$27,334 for U.S. – 43.9% of national average). Approximately 2,000 people are exposed to public/life safety issues associated with the potential for flooding. The average

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structure value (~\$77,300, versus \$188,400 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. Receipt of additional non-Federal funding for completion of the feasibility phase was received January 9, 2015.