

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Human Impact Floodplain Building Science Notebook Page

As the number of people living in the Reno/Sparks area grows, more room for building has to be made. That generally leads to a better chance of housing developments being built on a floodplain (the low-lying lands next to rivers and streams). With new buildings in floodplains comes new challenges in the amount of water being absorbed in the surrounding area as well as more debris washing into the river when a heavy rain comes. Let's test to see the real-life effects of building in the floodplains. You will need:

- A bin
- Enough soil/dirt to fill half the bin
- A bucket of water
- 15-30 small objects to represent buildings, people, and debris

### Instructions:

1. Pour the soil/dirt into the bin.
2. Using your hand or a tool, carve a river from one end of the bin to the other.
3. Set up the small objects in various places on either side of your "river." Place some of them closer to the river and some of them a little farther back.
4. Make a prediction as to what you think is going to happen to the river.

**Make your prediction here:**

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5. Slowly pour the water into the beginning of your river until the bucket is empty of water.
6. Watch what happens to the river.

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**What did you notice happen? Do you think building in a floodplain is a good idea or a bad idea?  
Why or why not?**

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