Effects of El Nino on the West Fork Trinity

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Anatomy of a flood

- Rainfall driven
 - Storm total volume
 - Peak flow
- Reservoirs rise and store water
- River rises and stores water (valley storage)
- The floodway system stores water in the sumps
- Stored water from the sumps and reservoirs is released after the peak





The 1922 flood In Fort Worth



The 1949 flood











West Fork Trinity– 2,052 square mile drainage



Bridgeport and Eagle Mountain reservoirs spillways act like a bucket with a hole; the higher the water the more is released Volume is temporarily stored and the peaks reduced through valley storage

Lake Worth's spillway acts like a bucket with a spout, storing very little floodwaters. As the level in the lake increases, the release increases



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West Fork Reservoirs

- Bridgeport conservation level 836 ft msl, flood easement level 851, flood storage about 198,000 acre feet. Peak flood elevation recorded – 844.36 (8.36')
- Eagle Mountain conservation level 649.1, flood easement 668, flood storage volume about 240,000 acre feet of flood storage. Peak flood elevation recorded – 659.9 (10.1')
- Lake Worth Conservation level 594, flood easement to 600, flood storage 23,946 acre feet. Peak flood elevation - 598.70 (4.7')



LOWEST HOME ELEVATIONS

(above conservation)





Fort Worth Floodway



Lake Benbrook – 429 square mile drainage



Benbrook acts like a bucket with a spout, it fills until it spills. Volume is stored and high flows mitigated through valley storage

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El Nino - Rainfall



Flood Discharges

	Bridgeport	Eagle Mountain	Lake Worth
	flood releases	flood releases	flood releases
	acre feet	acre feet	acre feet
2015	374,370	780,587	788,583
2016 through 5/30	286,490	450,430	512,021
total	660,860	1,231,017	1,300,604
% Lake Volume	183%	684%	3883%





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Eagle Mountain inflows and releases - April 17 flood

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Lake Worth inflows and releases - April 17 flood



≊USGS

USGS 08048000 W Fk Trinity Rv at Ft Worth, TX







Effects of El Nino

- 50% more rainfall than average
- Very large volumes of runoff
- Reservoir levels at conservation or above constantly since November
- Floods on all reservoirs, with homes damaged on Bridgeport and Eagle Mountain
- A great water supply for the upcoming La Nina period

