

Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission

STAFF REPORT

DATE: February 23, 2017

TO: Chairman and Members, Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission

FROM: Jim Smitherman, Water Resources Program Manager

SUBJECT: Presentation on proposed University of Nevada, Reno ("UNR") Water Innovation Campus project; possible recommendation to the Western Regional Water Commission ("WRWC") to include \$25,000 for the project in the WRWC FY17-18 Tentative Budget; and possible direction to staff.

SUMMARY

The UNR Environmental Engineering program proposes to develop a Water Innovation Campus, over the next three years, which will result in a self-sustaining center able to develop and implement leading edge, integrated water solutions for regional needs, and demonstrate national leadership in the water sector by UNR and the Truckee Meadows region.

Areas of focus would include water reclamation and reuse applications, water treatment, resource recovery, sustainable water management, storm water management, surface and groundwater quality, and water education. Activities envisioned to address these topics include regional needs assessments, research and development of technology solutions, pilot- and full-scale demonstrations, leading edge technology adoption and validation, technical training, knowledge exchange, public outreach and communication, human resource development, intellectual property and (hosting?) national and international conferences and workshops.

The Water Innovation Campus concept has strong institutional support from UNR and was recently presented to, and received favorably among, representatives of the proposed charter members listed below:

- City of Reno
- City of Sparks
- Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission
- Truckee Meadows Water Authority
- Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility
- Washoe County

BACKGROUND

The Northern Nevada region is experiencing economic expansion as it transitions to a more knowledge-based / technology-centric economy. Sustainable water strategies, thoughtfully planned infrastructure, and water sector leadership are vitally important to the community at this time. Development of the Water Innovation Campus is a unique and timely opportunity

to address regional needs locally by developing sustainable solutions that fit the Truckee Meadows, and build technology capacity in the region. The project should provide for economic development and job creation, national visibility and the ability to attract resources and qualified people to the region.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed project, if approved, would be partially funded in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from the FY17-18 professional services budget, following approval and execution of an interlocal agreement with UNR for that purpose.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests that the NNWPC consider the proposal and, if approved, direct staff to include a \$25,000 item in the professional services portion of the WRWC FY17-18 Tentative Budget, to be presented to the WRWC for review on March 15.

JS:df

Attachment



UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO
WATER INNOVATION CAMPUS



Inspiration

Northern Nevada is experiencing economic expansion and is transitioning to a more knowledge-based / technology-centric economy. Water sector leadership, sustainable water strategies, and thoughtfully planned infrastructure are vitally important to our region at this time.

The Water Innovation Campus is a vision shared by the regional water utilities and UNR to develop and implement leading edge and integrated water solutions and demonstrate national leadership in the water sector.

Innovation

Administratively and intellectually housed at UNR to collaboratively develop leading edge water solutions for regional needs

Demonstrate national leadership in the water sector



Current advanced water technologies demonstration is the "embryo"

CORE FOCUS:

- Reclaimed water reuse
- Water treatment technologies
- Resource recovery (nutrients, energy, water)
- Sustainable water management
- Stormwater management

Physical campus in the form of pilot and demonstration units



Located at full scale water, wastewater and stormwater facilities in region

Regional partners would be the charter members developing the water innovation campus over a three year period

Additional members (including regional utilities and state agencies, industry, consulting firms, equipment vendors) will be invited

Founders



University of Nevada, Reno

