

Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission

STAFF REPORT

DATE: February 23, 2017

TO: Chairman and Members, Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission

FROM: Chris Wessel, Water Management Planner

SUBJECT: Discussion and possible recommendation to the WRWC for approval of a one-year, no-cost time extension to the Interlocal Agreement (“ILA”) with the Desert Research Institute (“DRI”) for Supplementary Precipitation Gauges for Cloud Seeding Validation in the Tahoe-Truckee Basin.

SUMMARY

At the request of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (“NNWPC”), DRI developed a proposal to better quantify the results of the Cloud Seeding program which is partially funded by the Regional Water Management Fund (RWMF). The original scope of work was for the installation of six precipitation gauges to be installed over a three year period at a cost of \$25,000 per year.

On April 7, 2014, the NNWPC recommended \$25,000 to fund the first phase of the project for fiscal year 2014-2015, which the WRWC approved on May 15, 2014. DRI provided a second phase scope of work to complete the second and third year of the project for fiscal years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 which was recommended by the NNWPC on November 4, 2015 and approved by the WRWC on November 18, 2015. The total not-to-exceed amount approved for the project to date from the RWMF is \$75,000.

Due to the approval of the second scope of work for the project in November of 2015, weather conditions prohibited DRI personnel from beginning work on the second phase of the project, the first year of which was scheduled for completion during winter of 2015-2016. Since the work was delayed for a year, staff is recommending the ILA be amended for an extension of time of one year at no additional cost.

BACKGROUND

On April 7, 2014, the NNWPC received a proposal from Dr. Jeff Tilley of DRI to better quantify the benefits of the cloud seeding program by using additional precipitation gauges. The NNWPC directed staff to include \$25,000 for that purpose in the fiscal year 2014-2015 budget, which the WRWC approved on May 15, 2014. The budget amount was the first phase of a three year program not to exceed a total of \$75,000. At that time, the NNWPC requested that DRI evaluate the condition of four Washoe County precipitation gauges, which were made available for the program, and determine if they can be refurbished for use as part of the program. Following their assessment DRI prepared a second proposal for \$50,000 which included upgrading and repurposing the Washoe County precipitation gauges.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed one year time extension will result in no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests that the NNWPC make a recommendation to the WRWC to approve a second Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with DRI for a one-year, no-cost time extension to the Interlocal Agreement for Supplementary Precipitation Gauges for Cloud Seeding Validation in the Tahoe-Truckee Basin.

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