

Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission

STAFF REPORT

DATE: June 1, 2017

TO: Chairman and Members, Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission

FROM: Jim Smitherman, Water Resources Program Manager

SUBJECT: Discussion and possible approval of a proposal from the University of Nevada, Reno (“UNR”) for funding in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund (“RWMF”) to support the Water Innovations Campus project; if approved, direct the Program Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement (“ILA”) with UNR for that purpose; and possible direction to staff.

SUMMARY

The UNR Environmental Engineering program has proposed to develop a Water Innovation Campus over the next three years. The project 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.

The Water Innovation Campus concept has received strong institutional support from UNR and from the proposed charter members, each of which has committed to funding contributions after July 1, 2017:

- City of Reno
- City of Sparks
- Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission/Western Regional Water Commission
- Truckee Meadows Water Authority
- Washoe County

An inaugural event is planned for the third week of August 2017. Details will be provided when they are available.

The Water Innovation Campus will focus on 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.

BACKGROUND

The Northern Nevada region is experiencing economic expansion as it transitions to a more knowledge-based and 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.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the NNWPC approve funding in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from the RWMF for the Water Innovations Campus project, and direct the Program Manager to execute an ILA with UNR for that purpose.

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

