

Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission

STAFF REPORT

DATE: June 1, 2017
TO: Chairman and Members,
FROM: Chris Wessel, WRWC Water Management Planner
Frank McDonough, Desert Research Institute, Associate Research Scientist
SUBJECT: Discussion and possible recommendation to the Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”) to approve three-month, no-cost time extensions for two Interlocal Agreements (“ILAs”) with the Desert Research Institute (“DRI”): a) The Cloud Seeding project for the 2016 – 2017 season; and b) The Cloud Seeding Monitoring Gauges project; and possible direction to staff.

SUMMARY

The WRWC currently has two active ILAs with DRI associated with cloud seeding, as listed above. Staff anticipated that work associated with both projects would be completed by June 30, 2017, based on conditions from previous years; however, due to the significant amount of precipitation which the area experienced during the 2016 – 2017 fall and winter, DRI anticipates that a significant remaining snow pack will prevent the timely completion of portions of the required work.

The Cloud Seeding project requires access to remove various snow generators in conformance with United States Forest Service permit conditions. In addition, DRI anticipates that the residual snow pack will restrict access and prevent installation of the last pair of automated precipitation gauges associated with the Cloud Seeding Monitoring Gauge project. For these reasons, DRI has requested three month, no-cost extensions for both ILAs.

BACKGROUND

Since 2009, DRI has conducted its cloud seeding program for the Truckee River and Lake Tahoe Basins using funds provided by either the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”) or the Truckee River Fund (“TRF”), and the WRWC. The current ILA for the Cloud Seeding project includes a budget for \$100,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund (“RWMF”) to partially fund cloud seeding operations for water year 2016-2017.

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. The original scope of work and ILA for the Monitoring Gauges project required the installation of six precipitation gauges over a three-year period, at a cost not to exceed \$25,000 per year from the RWMF.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests that the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission make a recommendation to the WRWC to approve three month, no-cost extensions for both the 2016-2017 Cloud Seeding project, and Monitoring Gauge project ILAs.

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