

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** September 30, 2022  
**TO:** Chairman and Members, Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC)  
**FROM:** Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager and Birgit Widegren, Water Management Planner  
**SUBJECT:** Workshop to review the priorities, projects and studies listed in the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) fiscal year (FY) 2023 Budget; discussion of priorities for ongoing and future projects and studies.

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### **SUMMARY**

The NNWPC holds an annual workshop to identify priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. The priorities relate to the water planning subjects identified in the WRWC Act and in the Regional Water Management Plan, including water resources, water conservation, wastewater & reclaimed water, storm water and flood control. The purpose of this agenda item is to determine FY 2024 strategic priority recommendations for the WRWC.

Strategic priority recommendations for FY 2024 developed at the NNWPC October workshop are intended to be reviewed and discussed with the WRWC at a concurrent workshop on November 2, 2022. Staff expects that the October workshop will provide confirmation of WRWC strategic priorities, policies, goals and objectives for the upcoming year and will allow the NNWPC and staff to develop the FY 2024 tentative budget, beginning in November 2022.

### **BACKGROUND**

On December 17, 2021, the NNWPC held a workshop to review the projects and studies listed in the WRWC FY 2023 budget and discuss priorities for ongoing and future projects and studies. The outcome of the workshop was the basis for the development of the FY 2023 tentative budget. On May 19, 2022, the WRWC adopted the Final Budget for FY 2023.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the NNWPC direct staff to evaluate the results of its October 5, 2022 workshop and priority setting exercise, and direct staff to prepare the results for recommendation to the WRWC at a concurrent workshop November 2, 2022.

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Attachment 8a Priorities Setting Exercise

# Fiscal Year 2024 NNWPC Priorities Workshop

Please enter your first and last name.

## Priority Planning Categories

Question instructions: *Sort the list in order of highest priority (top) to lowest priority (bottom) in fiscal year 2024*

Regional Flood Control Planning

Regional Stormwater Planning

Regional Wastewater/Reclaimed Water Planning

Regional Water Conservation Planning

Regional Water Planning

For each project below, please rank between 1 and 5 stars. All projects brought forward are important priorities for regional water resource planning. These rankings inform the fiscal year 2024 Regional Water Management Fund budget development.

## Precipitation Monitoring, Desert Research Institute \$20,000

*Desert Research Institute (DRI) provides maintenance for, and takes bi-annual readings at, over 80 rain gauges throughout the planning area to validate and potentially improve existing groundwater recharge estimates.*

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## Washoe Evapotranspiration Project, Desert Research Institute \$5,000

*Desert Research Institute (DRI) provides annual evapotranspiration weather station maintenance for: Wolf Run Golf Course, Valley Road at UNR, Lazy Five Regional Park, Wilson Commons Park, Mogul Mountain Park, Lemmon Valley Regional Park, and Cold Springs Community Center. The weather stations provide evapotranspiration rates that DRI uses as a tool to estimate lawn and crop water needs. The tool is hosted on a public website.*

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### Water Usage Review Program, Truckee Meadows Water Authority \$100,000

*Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) Water Usage Review Program is an integral part of its Water Conservation Plan. The program assists customers to evaluate increases in water bills, determine if the increase is due to water leaks and evaluate water savings solutions. The funding request and scope of work will support 43% of TMWA staff time for these water usage reviews and overall program administration in FY 2024.*



### Certified Landscape Technician Exam, Nevada Landscape Association \$12,500

*The Nevada Landscape Association (NLA) works closely with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority on smart landscape irrigation and water usage accountability. The NLA irrigation training module covers reading irrigation plans, automatic controller programming for efficient water use, troubleshooting and wiring valve assembly, pipe selection & fitting, drip systems, and sprinkler selection. This training and certification ensures professional irrigation system installations emphasize responsible water resource management.*



### Regional Water Management & Coordination, Nevada Water Innovations Institute \$160,000

*The Nevada Water Innovations Institute (NWII) and Warner and Associates, serving as an NWII sub-consultant provides regional water leadership and technical assistance. The 3-year agreement includes tasks which support Advanced Purified Water Program Coordination at American Flat, regional effluent management technical support and coordination, and the NWII will host the Truckee River Watershed Symposium.*



### Data Instincts, OneWater Nevada Communication Plan \$100,000

*Data Instincts provides outreach efforts and support of Advanced Purified Water Demonstration Projects, and of OneWater Nevada leadership efforts; and leads communication and engagement efforts for the Advanced Purified Water Program. The program encompasses elements of American Flat Demonstration Project, Palomino Farms Sustainable Water Resources Feasibility Study, and support for the Nevada Water Innovations Institute and other efforts aimed at regional water supply sustainability.*



### Independent Advisory Panel, National Water Research Institute \$50,000

*The National Water Research Institute (NWR I) plans and facilitates an Independent Advisory Panel (Panel) to support the region's Advanced Purified Water Programs (currently the American Flat project). OneWater Nevada and its Program Coordinator Warner and Associates, in collaboration with the OneWater Nevada members and consultant AECOM administer the Panel. The Panel's objective is to provide expert advice on the suitability of the advanced treatment processes and operating protocols to achieve Nevada Category A+ reclaimed water quality (Advanced Purified Water). The Panel's independent expert peer review of the programs lend credibility to Advanced Purified Water projects among the regulatory agencies.*



### Effluent Guidance Document Implementation, OneWater Nevada \$50,000

*The Regional Effluent Management Team and Warner and Associates are finalizing the Draft Effluent Guidance Document. A draft is anticipated to be complete by December 2022. Regional effluent planning is advancing and this agreement would provide continued support for implementation activities identified in the guidance. As planning evolves this agreement will support to the OneWater Nevada regional collaborative to refine regional effluent planning tools and include updates to the guidance where appropriate.*

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### Sierra Nevada Journeys Recycled Water Curriculum, OneWater Nevada \$50,000

*Sierra Nevada Journeys is proposing to work with Data Instincts and the OneWater Nevada collaborative to develop Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education to advance the community's understanding of Advanced Purified Water and the benefits it may bring to the region. With an annual average of 40-50 STEM Nights, at an average attendance of 150, that would equate to direct education to 6000-7500 people annually. The majority of the STEM Nights take place at Elementary Schools, with some at Middle Schools. Attendees range the gamut of elementary aged students, their parents, older siblings, aunts/uncles, grandparents, teachers and administrators.*

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### Research Facility Planning, Nevada Water Innovations Institute \$30,000

*This will be a new agreement with the Nevada Water Innovations Institute to explore the establishment of a research center as a multi-benefit site for pilot and reuse studies and water recycling education to the public at the American Flat Advanced Purified Water facility site.*

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### Enhanced Wastewater Source Control Phase 2, Nevada Water Innovations Institute \$200,000

*A wastewater source control plan must meet NAC 445A.27616(5) requirements to protect reclaimed water quality for Indirect Potable Reuse. The wastewater source control framework focuses on reducing pollutants to enhance and potentially expand opportunities to use wastewater effluent in water recycling projects. Phase 1 of the ILA scope of work included development of an enhanced wastewater source control framework for each WRF within the Truckee Meadows. Phase 2 of the ILA implements the source control sampling plan developed in phase 1, and facilitates the development of source control strategies to help meet effluent receiving water quality objectives, protect drinking water supply sources, and provide environmental benefits and protection.*

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### Stormwater Quality Control Program, Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee \$262,500

*This interlocal agreement provides continued support for the regional Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee's Stormwater Management Program activities for compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit requirements.*

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### One Truckee River Management Plan Implementation, Truckee River Foundation \$75,000

*This ILA supports implementation of the One Truckee River Management Plan that has four primary goals, including ensuring and protecting water quality and ecosystem health in the Truckee River. The Truckee River Foundation scope of work supports numerous implementation activities uniquely focused on the urban/social aspects of Truckee River water quality including delivering the River-Friendly Living educational program to residents, developers and Homeowner's Associations, continuing to build educational resources on the One Truckee River website, and coordinating the One Truckee River Partnership Council.*

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### Watershed Assessments, Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee \$75,000

*The Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee implements watershed assessments for tributaries to the Truckee River. The assessments evaluate impacts to the tributaries, track trends in stream condition and overall stream health and identify high risk areas for future watershed restoration projects.*

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### Water Quality Credit Program Phase 2, Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee \$100,000

*Under this ILA, Environmental Incentives is developing a proposed Water Quality Credit Trading Program for the Truckee Meadows. In coordination with regulators and stakeholder agencies, a credit trading program will use modeling to identify pollutant load credits resulting from implementation of water quality projects to utilize as offsets for other load-increasing projects.*

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### Truckee Meadows Regional Stormwater Management Program Update, Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee \$100,000

*The regional Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee (SWPCC) is expecting an updated NPDES MS4 permit which will require an update to the Truckee Meadows Regional Stormwater Management Program. This ILA will support the program update.*

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### Steamboat Ditch Flood Evaluation Study Phase 2, Washoe County \$150,000

*This is an ongoing project led by Washoe County to evaluate potential flood control outlet improvements on the Steamboat Ditch from the crossing at Hunter Creek to the crossing over Evans Creek, downstream from Ridgeview Lane (11 miles through the urbanized areas.) Washoe County and the City of Reno have completed the evaluation and are working on developing the Phase 2 scope of work.*

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### Cold Springs Water Balance, Washoe County \$200,000

*The Cold Springs hydrographic basin is a closed basin. A dditional water resource analyses and understanding of the existing and future water budget are needed to inform decision making. Washoe County Community Services Department, Engineering and Capital Projects is current evaluating the capacity of the rapid infiltration basins at the Cold Springs Water Reclamation Facility independently. The evaluation is anticipated to be complete by the end of the 2022 calendar year and the first phase of the water balance effort is anticipated to be scoped in 2023.*

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### Lemmon Valley Flood Mitigation Analysis, Washoe County \$160,000

*Washoe County is completing projects in support of this flood mitigation analysis and is preparing to scope this work in the first or second quarter of 2023.*

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### Shared Work Program, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency \$50,000

*Under this agreement the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency(TMRPA) provides assistance to the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) and the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) including Geographic Information System support, Regional Water Management Plan and Natural Resources Plan work products, Consensus Forecast collaboration, WRWC/NNWPC meeting minute transcription, and web hosting services.*

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