

Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission

STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 29, 2022

TO: Chairmen and Members, Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC)

FROM: Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager

SUBJECT: Report, discussion, and possible direction to staff concerning the results of the NNWPC annual priorities setting workshop held on October 5, 2022, to prioritize projects and studies for fiscal year 2024 (FY24)

SUMMARY

On October 5, 2022, the NNWPC conducted its annual workshop to develop a prioritized list of identified projects and subjects for FY24. Historically, the outcome of the workshop has been used as the basis for development of the professional services portion of the WRWC tentative budget.

The priorities setting workshop is structured to reinforce the goals of the Regional Water Management Plan (RWMP). The RWMP goals and policies focus on regional water planning subjects including Water Supply, Water Conservation, Wastewater and Reclaimed Water, Stormwater, and Flood Control. The NNWPC members ranked the planning subjects, scored each project, and reviewed the resulting professional services budget for FY24 with all projects and priorities fully funded.

On October 5, 2022, the NNWPC directed staff to prepare an additional professional services budget option to compare the budget with all projects fully funded with one that omits funding for projects that scored 30 or less points during the priorities setting exercise. The professional services budget with all projects fully funded is \$2,160,000. Omitting funding for projects which scored 30 or less points, resulted in a \$1,262,500 professional services budget. Both options are included in Attachment 7a, page 3 for review.

On November 2, 2022, the results of the NNWPC priorities workshop were presented at a joint meeting of the NNWPC and WRWC. No action was taken.

BACKGROUND

The Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) is required to prepare and submit a tentative budget to the Nevada Department of Taxation on or before April 15, and to hold a public hearing on the tentative budget not sooner than the third Monday in May, and not later than the last day in May (NRS 354.596(4)). Historically, the fiscal year budgets have been developed in support of the priorities recommended by the NNWPC.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff proposes the NNWPC give direction to staff, as appropriate, concerning the priorities setting workshop results and the professional services budget options, with or without changes, for recommendation to the WRWC for inclusion in the WRWC tentative budget for FY24.

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Attachments:

7a NNWPC October 5, 2022 priorities setting workshop results and professional services budget options for FY24

7b Fiscal Year 2024 NNWPC Priorities Workshop poll

FY24 Draft Professional Services Budget

Professional Services Project Name	FY23 Budget	FY24 Budget (All Priorities Funded)	FY24 Budget (Priorities ranked > 30 Points)	Agreement Notes
<i>Precipitation Monitoring</i>	20,000	20,000	0	Annual ILA
Regional Water Planning Projects	20,000	20,000	0	
<i>Washoe ET Project</i>	5,000	5,000	0	Annual ILA
<i>Water Usage Review Program</i>	100,000	100,000	100,000	Annual ILA
<i>Certified Landscape Technician Program</i>	12,500	12,500	0	Bi-Annual agreement expires FY2024, subject to priorities setting
Regional Water Conservation	117,500	117,500	100,000	
<i>Nevada Water Innovations Institute Regional Water Management Coordination</i>	0	160,000	160,000	Multi-year ILA
<i>Data Instincts-OneWater Nevada Communications Plan</i>	100,000	100,000	100,000	Multi-year agreement
<i>NWRI Expert Panel APW Water Planning</i>	50,000	50,000	50,000	Annual ILA
<i>Regional Effluent Management Planning Guidance Document</i>	0	50,000	50,000	Possible agreement pending doc completion December 2022, (placeholder for implementation and ongoing support).
<i>Sierra Nevada Journey's APW STEM Education OneWater Nevada</i>	0	50,000	50,000	Pending proposal
<i>NWII Research Hub Planning at American Flat</i>	30,000	30,000	30,000	Pending proposal
<i>NWII Enhanced Wastewater Source Control</i>	100,000	200,000	200,000	Multi-year ILA, Phase 2
Regional Wastewater and Reclaimed Water Planning Projects	490,000	640,000	640,000	
<i>SWPCC - NPDES Storm Water Quality Management Program</i>	262,500	262,500	262,500	Annual ILA
<i>Truckee River Foundation-One Truckee River</i>	75,000	75,000	0	Annual ILA
<i>SWPCC - Watershed Assessments</i>	75,000	75,000	0	Pending proposal
<i>Environmental Incentives - Water Quality Credit Program</i>	200,000	100,000	0	Multi-year ILA, Phase 2
<i>SWPCC Truckee Meadows Regional Storm Water Management Program (NPDES permit requirement)</i>	100,000	100,000	100,000	Pending proposal and permit update
Regional Storm Water Planning Projects	712,500	612,500	362,500	
<i>Stantec - Steamboat Ditch Flooding Study</i>	150,000	150,000	0	Multi-year ILA, Phase 2
<i>Cold Springs Water Balance Modeling</i>	200,000	200,000	0	Pending proposal-expected Spring 2023
<i>Lemmon Valley Long-Term Flood Mitigation Analysis</i>	160,000	160,000	0	Pending proposal-expected Spring 2023
Regional Flood Control Planning Projects	510,000	510,000	0	
<i>Project Contingency Funds</i>	135,000	135,000	135,000	
<i>WRWC - Regional Water Management Plan</i>	75,000	75,000	75,000	Annual budget for RWMP program needs
<i>WRWC - TMRPA Shared Work Program</i>	50,000	50,000	50,000	Annual ILA
Project Contingency & Comprehensive Plan	260,000	260,000	260,000	
Totals	\$2,110,000	\$2,160,000	\$1,362,500	Difference \$797,500

Note 1 Budget amounts may be transferred between categories.

Note 2 Priority topics that do not yet have an identified scope of work, budget or proposed agreement are highlighted green.

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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