

Western Regional Water Commission and Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission

STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 26, 2023

TO: Chair and Members, Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) and Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC)

FROM: Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager and Birgit Widegren, Water Management Planner

SUBJECT: Report, discussion, and possible direction to staff concerning the results of the NNWPC annual priorities setting workshop held on October 4, 2023 to prioritize projects and studies for fiscal year 2025 (FY25)

SUMMARY

On October 4, 2023, the NNWPC conducted its annual workshop to develop a prioritized list of identified projects and subjects for FY25. 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 FY25 with all projects and priorities fully funded.

On October 4, 2023, the NNWPC directed staff to recommend to the WRWC to fund all projects. The professional services budget with all projects fully funded is \$1,475,000.

The professional services budget worksheet also categorizes the projects into the regional water planning subjects to examine how the projects reinforce the goals of the RWMP. Some projects shown on the professional services budget worksheet are ongoing efforts funded by existing multi-year agreements; others are ongoing programs that are funded each year with a new agreement or by amending the existing agreement. In contrast, other priority topics do not yet have an identified scope of work, budget or proposed agreement, and those items will need to be developed in the coming fiscal year.

BACKGROUND

The 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 and WRWC give direction to staff, as appropriate, concerning the priorities setting workshop results and the professional services budget options, with or without changes, for inclusion in the WRWC tentative budget for FY25.

Attachments:

8a NNWPC October 4, 2023, priorities setting workshop results and professional services budget for FY25

8b Fiscal Year 2025 NNWPC Priorities Workshop poll

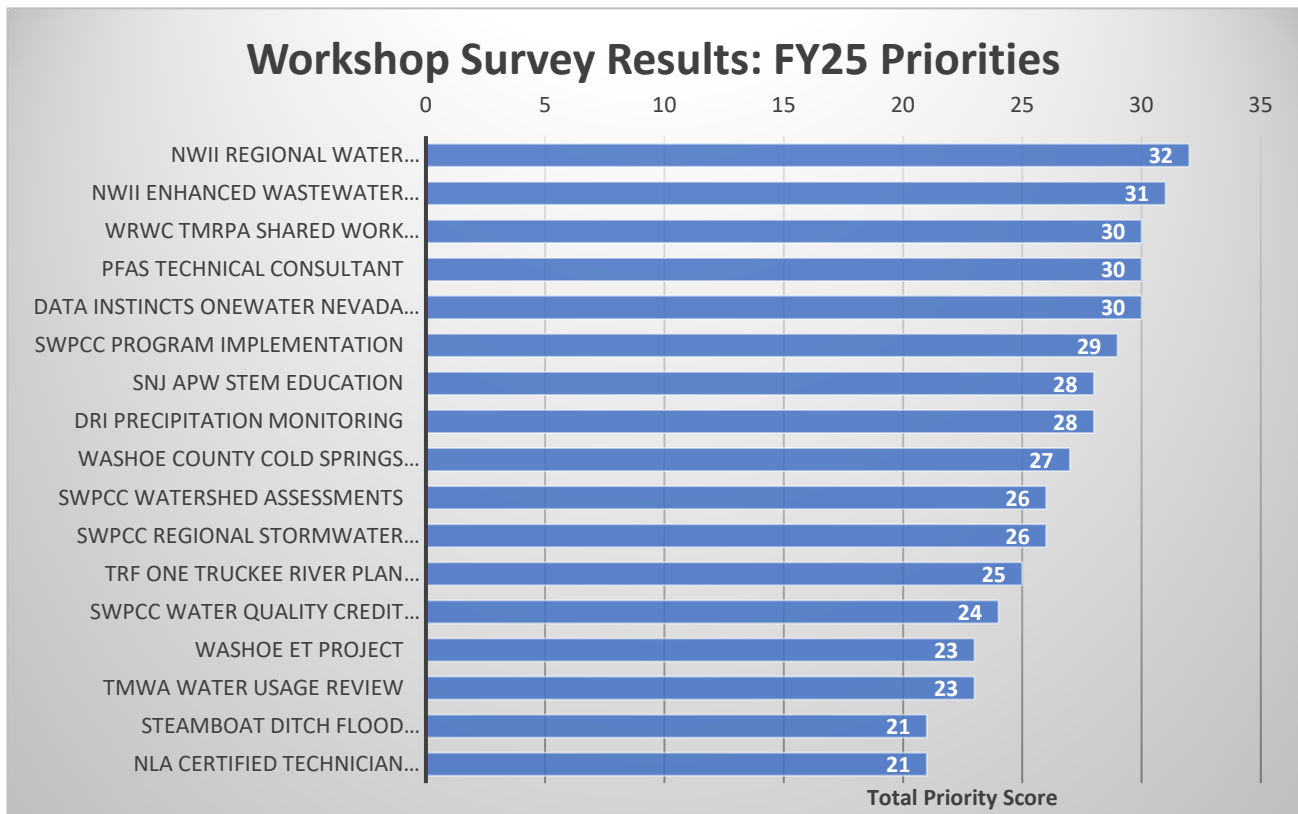
DRAFT Tentative Professional Services Budget Detail Fiscal Year 2025

Professional Services Project Name	FY 2025 Budget	Agreement Notes
<i>Precipitation Monitoring</i>	<i>20,000</i>	Annual ILA
Water Supply	20,000	
<i>Washoe ET Project</i>	<i>5,000</i>	Annual ILA
<i>Water Usage Review Program</i>	<i>100,000</i>	Annual ILA
<i>Certified Landscape Technician Program</i>	<i>12,500</i>	Bi-Annual agreement
Water Conservation	117,500	
<i>Nevada Water Innovations Institute Regional Water Management Coordination</i>	<i>160,000</i>	Multi-year agreement
<i>Data Instincts-OneWater Nevada Communications Plan</i>	<i>100,000</i>	Multi-year agreement
<i>Sierra Nevada Journey's APW STEM Education OneWater Nevada</i>	<i>50,000</i>	Annual agreement
<i>NWII Enhanced Wastewater Source Control</i>	<i>250,000</i>	Multi-year agreement
Wastewater and Reclaimed Water	560,000	
<i>SWPCC - NPDES Storm Water Quality Management Program</i>	<i>262,500</i>	Annual ILA
<i>Truckee River Foundation-One Truckee River</i>	<i>75,000</i>	Annual agreement
<i>SWPCC - Watershed Assessments</i>	<i>65,000</i>	Annual ILA
<i>Environmental Incentives - Water Quality Credit Program</i>	<i>100,000</i>	Multi-year ILA
<i>SWPCC Truckee Meadows Regional Storm Water Management Program (NPDES permit requirement)</i>	<i>TBD</i>	Possible ILA pending permit update
Stormwater	502,500	
<i>Stantec - Steamboat Ditch Flooding Study</i>	<i>TBD</i>	Possible ILA pending scope of work
<i>Cold Springs Water Balance Modeling</i>	<i>125,000</i>	To be considered at the November 2023 concurrent meeting
Flood Control	125,000	
<i>Project Contingency Funds</i>	<i>TBD</i>	FY25 beginning fund balance minus funded priorities
<i>WRWC - Regional Water Management Plan</i>	<i>75,000</i>	Annual placeholder to update RWMP
<i>WRWC - TMRPA Shared Work Program</i>	<i>50,000</i>	Annual ILA
<i>Regional PFAS Technical Consultant</i>	<i>25,000</i>	Multi-year agreement
Comprehensive Water Management Plan	150,000	
Totals	\$1,475,000	

Note: Budget amounts may be transferred between categories

FY25 Ranked Priorities

Professional Services Project Name	Score
NWII Regional Water Management Coordination	32
NWII Enhanced Wastewater Source Control	31
WRWC TMRPA Shared Work Program	30
PFAS Technical Consultant	30
Data Instincts OneWater Nevada Communication Plan	30
SWPCC Program Implementation	29
SNJ APW STEM Education	28
DRI Precipitation Monitoring	28
Washoe County Cold Springs Water Balance	27
SWPCC Watershed Assessments	26
SWPCC Regional Stormwater Management Program Update	26
TRF One Truckee River Plan Implementation	25
SWPCC Water Quality Credit Program	24
Washoe ET Project	23
TMWA Water Usage Review	23
Steamboat Ditch Flood Evaluation Study Phase 2	21
NLA Certified Technician Certification	21



Fiscal Year 2025 NNWPC Priorities Workshop 100423

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 2025*

Regional Flood Control Planning

Regional Stormwater Planning

Regional Wastewater/Reclaimed Water Planning

Regional Water Conservation Planning

Regional Water Supply 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 2025 Western Regional Water Commission Budget.

Precipitation Monitoring, Desert Research Institute \$20,000

Question instructions: *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

Question instructions: *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

Question instructions: *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 2025.*

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

Question instructions: *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.*

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

Question instructions: *The Nevada Water Innovations Institute (NWII) provides regional water leadership and technical assistance. The 3-year agreement (FY23, FY24 and FY25) 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.*

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

Question instructions: *Data Instincts provides ongoing 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. Data Instincts continues to coordinate educational site visits and other opportunities to learn from other planning initiatives and facilities, and to inform leadership. 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.*

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Sierra Nevada Journeys Recycled Water STEM Education \$50,000

Question instructions: *In FY24, Sierra Nevada Journeys is working 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 from elementary aged students, their parents, older siblings, aunts/uncles, grandparents, teachers and administrators. FY25 funding will continue these efforts bringing the OneWater Nevada STEM Curriculum to the community.*

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Enhanced Wastewater Source Control Phase 2, Nevada Water Innovations Institute \$250,000

Question instructions: *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 began in FY23The Reno Stead Water Reclamation Facility source control sampling plan was developed and is being implemented. A draft plan for the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility is under review, and the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility is currently being developed. This effort 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.*



Truckee Meadows Stormwater Quality Management Program, Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee \$262,500

Question instructions: *The Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee consists of representatives from the City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County to implement a regional Stormwater Quality Management Program for compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirementsThis interlocal agreement with the City of Reno will provide pass through funding to support and implement the Stormwater Quality Management Program. Activities include stormwater sampling and reporting, technical consultant support, stream gauge maintenance and service, repair/replacement of field equipment, public outreach and education, interlocal meeting facilitation and coordination and other related activities as needed.*



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

Question instructions: *This ILA supports implementation of the One Truckee River Management Plan which identifies protecting water quality and ecosystem health in the Truckee River as primary goals. 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.*



Watershed Assessments, Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee \$65,000

Question instructions: *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.*



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

Question instructions: *Under this ILA, Environmental Incentives is currently 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 Stormwater Quality Management Program Update, Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee (budget to be determined).

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

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Steamboat Ditch Flood Evaluation Study Phase 2, Washoe County (budget to be determined).

Question instructions: *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 are working on developing the phase 2 scope of work.*

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Cold Springs Water Balance, Washoe County \$125,000

Question instructions: *The Cold Springs hydrographic basin is a closed basin. Additional water resource analyses and understanding of the existing and future water budget are needed to inform decision making. A basin-wide model will be developed to analyze aspects of surface water flow, groundwater flow, storage, and water use. The model will account for the total volume of groundwater and surface water entering and leaving the basin and how this varies under climatic conditions. In addition, existing water quality data will be investigated to determine current water quality of the aquifer, and potential water quality impacts due to future water balance changes.*

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

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

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PFAS Consulting Services - Western Regional Water Commission (\$25,000)

Question instructions: *On June 21, 2023, members of the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) asked staff to bring a PFAS expert to present to the WRWC, and other regional boards and councils, regarding what PFAS is, sources of PFAS, exposure pathways, and an outlook on the evolving United States Environmental Protection Agency regulatory framework. WRWC staff in coordination with regional partners will retain a consulting firm with PFAS expertise to act as a technical point of contact for the agencies and provide PFAS education, and inform the WRWC, NNWPC, governing boards and councils in the Truckee Meadows as needed.*

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Additional Priority

Question instructions: *New project or need brought forward during discussion*

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