



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 11, 2019

DATE: May 10, 2019

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Susan Dees, Fiscal Compliance Officer
Community Services Department, 328-2044, sdees@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Ben Hutchins, CPA, Director, Finance and Customer Service Division
Community Services Department, 954-4646, bhutchins@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve Amendment #1 to a Memorandum of Understanding, A Contract Between the State of Nevada Acting by and Through its Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Washoe County, a Political Subdivision of the State of Nevada Acting by and Through its Community Services Department-Regional Parks and Open Space to extend the funding arrangement on State Question 1 projects through June 30, 2020; and if approved, authorize Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to executed the Amendment. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

This item requests an extension of the term of the Memorandum of Understanding, A Contract Between the State of Nevada Acting by and Through its Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Washoe County, a Political Subdivision of the State of Nevada Acting by and Through its Community Services Department-Regional Parks and Open Space funding arrangement on State Question 1 projects from June 30, 2019, to June 30, 2020.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Stewardship of our Community.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On August 12, 2014, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State of Nevada to extend the funding arrangement on State Question 1 projects retroactive to July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2019.

On January 10, 2012, the Board accepted the third and final draw of \$2,000,000 of SQ-1-Truckee River funding.

On October 25, 2011, the Board approved Amendment #2 to the MOU with State of Nevada for SQ-1 funding, extended the compliance date for implementation of projects to June 30, 2014.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

On March 24, 2009, the Board reviewed the approved project list and again endorsed the vetting and selection process of the SQ-1 Truckee River project list.

On October 14, 2008, the Board approved Amendment #1 to the MOU with State of Nevada for SQ-1 funding, extended the compliance date for implementation of projects to December 31, 2011 and accepted second installment funds of \$4,000,000.

On November 25, 2003, the Board authorized the execution of the MOU and receipt of \$10,000,000 in SQ-1 bond payments to be paid in installments, and accepted the first installment of \$4,000,000.

On July 15, 2003, the Board approved the SQ-1 Truckee River project list.

On April 15, 2003, the Board reviewed the process for choosing, scoring and prioritizing SQ-1-Truckee River projects.

BACKGROUND

In the November 5, 2002, general election, the voters of the State of Nevada approved State Question 1 (AB9), approving the issuance of general obligation bonds to preserve, protect and obtain the benefits of property and natural resources in the State. Section 2, subsection 6 of the enabling legislation specifically allocated a total of \$10,000,000 to Washoe County to enhance and restore the Truckee River corridor. The funds must be used to acquire and develop land and water rights; provide for recreational facilities; provide parking for and access to and along the river and restore the river. All expenditures require a match of cash or value of services, materials or equipment that is equal to 50% of the total project.

On November 25, 2003, the Board approved a “Memorandum of Understanding, A Contract between the State of Nevada acting by and through its Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Washoe County, a Political Subdivision of the State of Nevada acting by and through its Parks and Recreation Department” (MOU). This MOU provided for the receipt of a total of \$10,000,000 in State Question 1 (AB9) funds to be used to implement a Board approved list of Truckee River restoration, recreation and acquisition projects. The Board also authorized the acceptance of the proceeds in the amount of \$10,000,000 to be received in several installments.

In 2003, the Truckee River Fund Working Group was formed and moderated by the Nevada Land Conservancy. Their diligent work resulted in a project list approved by the Board on July 15, 2003 and re-affirmed on March 24, 2009.

In January 2004, Washoe County received the first installment of bond funding; the second installment of \$2 million was received in September 2008; and the final installment of \$2 million was received in January 2012.

As of June 30, 2014, there was a total of 27 identified projects; all projects were complete with the exception of five which were encumbered and in various stages of implementation and construction.

The original MOU was set to expire on January 1, 2009. In October 2008, the MOU was amended to extend the term to December 31, 2011. In October 2011, the second amendment to extend the term to June 30, 2014 was approved. In August 2014, a new agreement was entered into by the County to continue the arrangement with the State of Nevada by extending the compliance date to June 30, 2019.

At the time the current agreement was approved, all projects were expected to be complete by June 30, 2019; however, the final Truckee River Management Plan-One Truckee River Initiative is still outstanding, but is expected to be complete by the end of next fiscal year. This project is managed by the Nevada Land Trust and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, on behalf of the One Truckee River Partnership, a collaborative effort for regional assessment and planning for over 25 miles of Truckee River habitat including the development of best management practices for recreation, cultural resources, restoration, water quality, invasive plant species, and environmental protection and education. This collaboration provides a uniform stewardship approach across jurisdictional boundaries among the many interested agencies and volunteer groups.

This outstanding project is to install signage and visitor kiosks along the river across various jurisdictions based on a Master Signage Plan that will be developed through a collective planning process.

FISCAL IMPACT

Extension of the MOU with State of Nevada has no direct fiscal impact.

Budget appropriations for grant revenue and expenses are accounted for in Fund 404, Parks Capital Fund, cash accounts 4447, 4448 and 4449.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve Amendment #1 to a Memorandum of Understanding, A Contract Between the State of Nevada Acting by and Through its Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Washoe County, a Political Subdivision of the State of Nevada Acting by and Through its Community Services Department-Regional Parks and Open Space to extend the funding arrangement on State Question 1 projects through June 30, 2020; and if approved, authorize Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to executed the Amendment.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve Amendment #1 to a Memorandum of Understanding, A Contract Between the State of Nevada Acting by and Through its Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Washoe County, a Political Subdivision of the State of Nevada Acting by and Through its Community Services Department-Regional Parks and Open Space to extend the funding arrangement on State Question 1 projects through June 30, 2020; and if approved, authorize Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to executed the Amendment."