



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 11, 2019

DATE: May 10, 2019

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Lydia Peri, P.E., Environmental Engineer II,
Community Services Department, 954-4626, lperi@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Dwayne Smith, P.E., Division Director, Engineering and Capital Projects
Community Services Department, 328-2043, desmith@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve an Agreement for Professional Consulting Services between Washoe County and the Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education, on behalf of University of Nevada, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, commencing June 11, 2019 through December 31, 2022, to provide for the Regional Category A+ Reclaimed Water Program Coordination Project [not to exceed \$106,859]. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

OneWater Nevada is a high-priority regional collaborative effort among UNR through the Nevada Water Innovation Institute (NWII), the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, Washoe County, the Western Regional Water Commission / Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (WRWC) / NNWPC), and the Regional Effluent Management Team (REMT), an informal working group comprised of staff from those entities. The effort consists of a number of interrelated field-scale demonstration projects focused on evaluating treatment technologies to determine if Category A+ reclaimed water is feasible and can provide long-term benefits to the Truckee Meadows region.

OneWater Nevada leadership and project management have largely come from the REMT; however, recent and upcoming changes in the REMT participants have raised issues concerning continuity of leadership and project management going forward. The NWII shares the REMT's concerns, and has requested local governing bodies, and the NWII Board of Advisors, to each consider providing partial funding for a contract to obtain professional services from a qualified consultant, for a period of three years, to provide for continuity of OneWater Nevada leadership and project management. The WRWC Program Manager represents the NNWPC and WRWC on the NWII Board of Advisors, and concurs that this proposal offers a critical opportunity to provide continuing leadership and project management for OneWater Nevada.

The anticipated scope of work and budget are included in the attached proposal. The required funding will be provided through a combination of contributions for partial funding from the WRWC, the TMWA, the City of Reno, Washoe County, and possibly private sector participants.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

PREVIOUS ACTION

There is no previous action.

BACKGROUND

NWII requests that local governing bodies (Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC), Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), City of Reno, Washoe County) each consider providing funding for obtaining professional services from a qualified consultant for the above purposes, for a period of three years. The required funding would be provided by local/regional governing bodies, and possibly private sector participants. The principal focus of this effort will be on Regional A+ Reclaimed Water Program Coordination.

Tasks include:

- Leadership position to guide regional A+ development and success. This is particularly crucial as the current A+ feasibility study is progressing from “technology pilot studies” to field scale demonstration projects.
- Enhance the regional team’s leadership, credibility, legitimacy, inspiration, and project/program management capacities.
- Act as one of the A+ leaders and general program spokespersons as directed by regional agencies.
- Create a fully developed action plan and “A+ engineering report” for approval of NDEP.

FISCAL IMPACT

Sufficient funds and budget authority for Regional Category A+ Reclaimed Water Program Coordination Project exist in Utilities Fund (566), cost center 664950, account 710100 (Professional Services). Expense will post to internal order 49572, which settles to cost center 664950. Revenues in support of this project are provided from monthly sewer rate charges.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners approve an Agreement for Professional Consulting Services between Washoe County and the Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education, on behalf of University of Nevada, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, commencing June 11, 2019 through December 31, 2022, to provide for the Regional Category A+ Reclaimed Water Program Coordination Project [not to exceed \$106,859].

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: “Move to approve an Agreement for Professional Consulting Services between Washoe County and the Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education, on behalf of University of Nevada, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, commencing June 11, 2019 through December 31, 2022, to provide for the Regional Category A+ Reclaimed Water Program Coordination Project [not to exceed \$106,859].”