



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 12, 2019

DATE: October 2, 2019

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Joanne Lowden, Natural Resources Planner,
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THROUGH: Eric Crump, Acting Director
Community Services Department, 328-3624, ecrump@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: Recommendation to: 1) Approve an Agreement Regarding November 2002 State Question 1: Parks and Open Space Bond Issue – Truckee River - One Truckee River Restroom Project Implementation Funding [\$286,937 – State Question 1 Truckee River Bond Funds] between Washoe County and Truckee Meadows Water Authority; and 2) authorize Interim County Manager, Dave Solaro to execute the agreement and related documents. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

If approved, this agreement authorizes Washoe County's participation in the implementation of the One Truckee River (OTR) Restroom Project funded through State Question 1 (SQ-1) Truckee River Funding Agreement. The OTR Restroom Project is part of the implementation phase of the collaborative regional One Truckee River (OTR) Management Plan. The project is being managed by the Nevada Land Trust (NLT) in partnership with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), on behalf of the OTR Partnership. This funding agreement between Washoe County and TMWA focuses on implementing the initial phases of the OTR Restroom Project which would install up to three restrooms at priority locations along the Truckee River. Additional restroom facilities will help to mitigate adverse human impacts on water quality and increase amenities along the Truckee River for public use.

Washoe County, through its Community Services Department, is the fiscal agent for SQ-1 bond funds. On July 10, 2019, Washoe County received approval from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to use a portion of remaining SQ-1 funds for the OTR Restroom Project. The project is in compliance with SQ-1 guidelines.

Strategic Objectives supported by this item: Stewardship of Our Community; Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

June 11, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved Amendment #1 to 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

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Services Department-Regional Parks and Open Space to extend the funding arrangement on State Question 1 projects through June 30, 2020.

August 12, 2014, 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 Community Services Department-Regional Parks and Open Space to extend the funding arrangement on State Question 1 projects retroactive to July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2019.

January 10, 2012, the Board accepted the third and final draw of \$2,000,000 of State Question 1 bond proceeds from State of Nevada for previously approved Truckee River Projects.

October 25, 2011, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign, Amendment #2 to “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” to extend the funding contract on State Question 1 projects to June 30, 2014.

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

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.

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.

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

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 SQ-1 (aka 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.

Washoe County, through its Community Services Department, is the fiscal agent for SQ-1 bond funds. Washoe County received approval from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources on July 10, 2019 to use remaining SQ-1 funds for the OTR Restroom Project. The project is in compliance with SQ-1 guidelines.

The OTR Management Plan is a collaborative regional assessment and planning effort for over 25 miles of Truckee River habitat, recreation, cultural resources, restoration, water quality, invasive plant species and environmental education needs. It identifies best management practices, habitat and environmental protections, and provides a uniform

stewardship approach across jurisdictional boundaries and among the various agencies and volunteer groups. The OTR Management Plan is the result of over two years of work with over 130 stakeholders to develop over 120 strategies and recommendations to create a sustainable, clean and thriving river community. It was adopted by Washoe County, City of Reno and the City of Sparks in September of 2016. Since its adoption the OTR Stakeholders have been working on implementing the plan with four main goals: 1) Ensure and protect water quality and ecosystem health in the Truckee River, 2) Create and sustain a safe, beautiful and accessible river connecting people and places, 3) Build an aware and engaged community that protects and cares for the river, and 4) Ensure the measurable, sustainable and collaborative management of the river for today and into the future.

The OTR Restroom Project fulfills many of the strategies identified within Goal #1 and Goal #2 of the OTR Management Plan. Providing additional restrooms along the Truckee River is included under Objective 1.3 (Mitigate human impacts that adversely impact water quality on the Truckee River), Objective 2.1 (Increase appropriate use and discourage illegal activities along the Truckee River), and Objective 2.4 (Ensure adequate public amenities along the Truckee River). The OTR Restroom Project will help improve water quality and ecosystem health in the Truckee River. Restrooms improve outdoor public spaces for everyone and help to build community resilience, support social cohesion, increase urban renewal, and improve public health by reducing potential vectors for infectious disease. Human waste also impacts the water quality of the Truckee River and its terminus, Pyramid Lake, which serve as drinking water sources, recreational waters, irrigation water sources, and habitat for federally listed fish. TMWA and other agencies regularly record elevated Escherichia Coli (E. Coli) in the Truckee River and human waste is a likely contributor.

This agreement between Washoe County and TMWA provides funding to assist with initial phases of the OTR Restroom Project which include installation of up to 3 restrooms at priority sites along the Truckee River. Priority locations for restroom installation were identified across all jurisdictions and will move forward with permission from the appropriate managing agencies. The first restroom installation will occur at Brodhead Park as part of phase I implementation. The NLT has also secured funding for restroom maintenance and to hire a River Ambassador position to engage in community outreach efforts with homeless populations as part of the project. Additional project contributions are being provided by TMWA, Truckee River Fund (TRF), Renown Health, Tahoe-Pyramid Trail (TPT), Washoe County Health District, and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP).

FISCAL IMPACT

Fiscal Year 2020 has sufficient budget authority in the Parks Capital Fund (404) to fund this project and will be accounted for in One Truckee River Restroom project (PK905127). All funds dedicated to Washoe County in the 2002 State legislation for Truckee River projects have been received and deposited in the Parks Capital Fund (404).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners: 1) Approve an Agreement Regarding November 2002 State Question 1: Parks and Open Space Bond Issue – Truckee River - One Truckee River Restroom Project Implementation Funding [\$286,937 – State Question 1 Truckee River Bond Funds] between Washoe County and Truckee

Meadows Water Authority; and 2) authorize Interim County Manager, Dave Solaro to execute the agreement and related documents.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:
"Move to: 1) Approve an Agreement Regarding November 2002 State Question 1: Parks and Open Space Bond Issue – Truckee River - One Truckee River Restroom Project Implementation Funding [\$286,937 – State Question 1 Truckee River Bond Funds] between Washoe County and Truckee Meadows Water Authority; and 2) authorize Interim County Manager, Dave Solaro to execute the agreement and related documents.