



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 28, 2024

DATE: April 26, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Chad Giesinger, Planning Manager, Planning & Building, Community Services Department, 775-328-3626, Cgiesinger@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Eric Crump, Director, Community Services Department, 775-328-3625, ecrump@washoecounty.gov

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Washoe County, the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) regarding the process, data, and methodology to be utilized in the submission of annual population estimates to the State Demographer for subsequent certification by the Governor. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

NRS 360.283 and 360.285 states that the Governor shall, on or before March 1 of each year, certify the population of each town, township, city, and county in the State of Nevada ("State") from the determination submitted to the Governor by the State Demographer for purposes of apportionment of tax proceeds amongst political subdivisions, and which represents the official certified annual population in each jurisdiction. Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 360.365(4) provides that a county government and the cities and towns within its boundaries may coordinate and agree upon the data to be used in the annual population estimates submitted to the State Demographer for subsequent certification by the Governor.

The subject Interlocal Agreement (ILA) (*see* Attachment A) formally establishes how Washoe County, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks will coordinate and agree upon the data and methodology to be used in the annual population estimates submitted to the State Demographer. The Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) is a party to the ILA because the agency has agreed to prepare and submit, on behalf of the local governments, and after review by the local governments, the annual population estimates to the State Demographer for subsequent certification by the Governor. Once approved by all parties, the effective date of the ILA will be July 1, 2024.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability: Efficient delivery of regional services.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

PREVIOUS ACTION

None

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to NAC 360.365 and 360.390, estimates of the population of this State and its counties must be determined by averaging on an equal basis the results of the *Nevada Regression Model* and the relevant *Housing Unit Model*. The State Demographer is responsible for developing the results of the Nevada Regression Model, which uses economic data and a regression analysis to estimate population. The relevant Housing Unit Model is typically prepared by a county and its incorporated cities based on the number of housing units listed on the county assessors' records as of July 1 of each year. The number of occupied housing units is used to estimate population.

If a county and its incorporated cities cannot agree upon the data to be submitted, or are unable to produce a Housing Unit Model for submission, then the State Demographer will produce the relevant Housing Unit Model to be averaged with the results of the Nevada Regression Model. It is therefore in the best interest of the county and its incorporated cities to agree upon and submit the relevant Housing Unit Model to the State Demographer.

Washoe County has historically been the local government that has taken on the responsibility for preparing the relevant Housing Unit Model for submission to the State Demographer. Washoe County staff has historically collected the assessors' data, compiled the housing unit counts and resulting population estimates, and coordinated with the cities of Reno and Sparks to review the results prior to submission to the State Demographer.

Although the Housing Unit Model has been successfully produced by the county for many years, in consultation with the cities, there have at times been disputes over the data, timelines, and methodology to be used in the model. In addition, there has at times been the perception that as the lead local government producing the Housing Unit Model, the county may not be a neutral administrator of the counts since the results of the estimates are used as the basis for apportionment of certain tax proceeds amongst political subdivisions.

The intent of the subject ILA is to minimize or eliminate the potential for such disputes. The ILA will also provide the State Demographer with assurances regarding the data, timelines, and methodology that will be utilized by Washoe County and its incorporated cities to produce the relevant Housing Unit Model. To address the potential perception of bias stemming from the county being the lead local government producing the housing counts, county and city staff met with the TMRPA to explore the possibility of TMRPA taking over the responsibility for producing the Housing Unit Model.

TMRPA already tracks and projects residential development within the geographical boundaries of Washoe County as part of its regional planning functions. Therefore, producing a population estimate for Washoe County using the official count of housing units will improve TMRPA's ability to accomplish a core agency task more efficiently. The county and cities have agreed and desire TMRPA to be the lead agency in preparing and submitting the relevant Housing Unit Model to the State Demographer. TMRPA has agreed to take on this responsibility and is therefore a party to the subject ILA.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners approve an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Washoe County, the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) regarding the process, data, and methodology to be utilized in the submission of annual population estimates to the State Demographer for subsequent certification by the Governor.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Washoe County, the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) regarding the process, data, and methodology to be utilized in the submission of annual population estimates to the State Demographer for subsequent certification by the Governor."

Attachments:

A: Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County, the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency regarding the Annual Population Estimate Process and Methodology, effective July 1, 2024