



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 19, 2024

**DATE:** October 22, 2024  
**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**FROM:** Aaron Smith, Operations Division Director  
Community Services Dept., 775-328-2172, [aasmith@washoecounty.gov](mailto:aasmith@washoecounty.gov)  
**THROUGH:** Eric Crump, Director,  
Community Services Dept., 775-328-3625, [ecrump@washoecounty.gov](mailto:ecrump@washoecounty.gov)  
**SUBJECT:** Updated report to an emergency procurement contract awarded pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 338.011 to Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc., [in the amount of \$965,000.00] in response to a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public, caused by the Hidden Valley debris laden flash flood event on July 21, 2024. Community Services.  
(Commission District 4.) FOR DISCUSSION ONLY.

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### SUMMARY

On July 21, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. two thunderstorms collided over the Hidden Valley area, quickly forming a powerful new storm. The storm cell was centered on Damonte Peak in the Virginia Range and eroded the unstable and steep terrain east of Hidden Valley Regional Park. The eroded sediment and stormwater combined into a debris laden flash flood as it made its way onto Hidden Valley alluvial fans. The debris overwhelmed stormwater infrastructure, causing damage to public infrastructure and private properties, obstructing roadways, and damaging utilities.

The debris choked stormwater infrastructure and the likelihood of more rain, posed an unacceptable level of risk to the public. Reestablishing the stormwater infrastructure to an acceptable service level was identified as an emergency need. Washoe County Community Services Department (CSD) Roads Team did not have the capacity to reestablish the stormwater protection infrastructure quickly enough to mitigate the risk posed by another storm event. Under NRS 338.011, emergency procurement procedures were used to work with Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc., (SNC), with an immediate capacity and availability to rapidly fulfill this need. SNC agreed to perform the emergency work based on a time-and-materials rate with an uninformed estimated cost and "do not exceed" budget of \$275,000, which allowed for rapid mobilization. SNC's response was supervised and directed by Washoe County staff, who focused on addressing the risk to people and property.

AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_

With additional storms forecasted, Washoe County staff retained SNC to restore the capacity of two large retention ponds and reestablish drainage channels. When completed, more than 15,800 cubic yards worth of debris was removed from Hidden Valley streets and stormwater assets. That is equal to a football field stacked 7.41 feet high.

This report updates the original report to the Board of County Commissioners on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 with the final, actual costs of \$965,000 to Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc., and use of emergency procurement.

**Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:** Fiscal Sustainability: Long-term sustainability.

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

**September 10, 2024** – The Board of County Commissioners (Board) acknowledge receipt of a Report of two emergency procurement contracts awarded pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 338.011 to [Taurus Construction in the amount of \$129,775.00 and to Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$275,000.00] in response to a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public, caused by the Hidden Valley debris laden flash flood event on July 21, 2024.

### **BACKGROUND**

The emergency procurement spending for the Hidden Valley debris laden flash flood was a critical response to a significant natural disaster, guided by established legal framework and aligned with strategic objectives to ensure the safety and well-being of the community. A self-insurance claim has been opened through the Risk Management Division, and the cost of emergency response and on-going cleanup will be covered through Washoe County's self-insurance.

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 338.011 provides the legal basis for the emergency procurement actions taken in response to the Hidden Valley debris laden flash flood. NRS 338.011 as listed:

NRS 338.011 Applicability: Contracts related to normal operation and normal maintenance; contracts related to emergency. The requirements of this chapter do not apply to a contract:

1. Awarded in compliance with chapter 332 or 333 of NRS which is directly related to the normal operation of the public body or the normal maintenance of its property.
2. Awarded to meet an emergency which results from a natural or artificially created disaster and which threatens the health, safety or welfare of the public. If the public body or its authorized representative determines that an emergency exists, a contract or contracts necessary to contend with the emergency may be let without complying with the requirements of this chapter. If such emergency action was taken by the authorized representative, the authorized representative shall report the contract or

contracts to the public body at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the public body.

The Board has previously utilized this statute for emergency responses, such as the authorization of emergency flood mitigation systems during the Lemmon Valley flood.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The work and costs have not been approved by Risk Management. The source of funds for these emergency expenditures will be recognized in the Risk Management Fund (619) should they be approved. Reference - Claim # 2025-033 in the amount of \$965,000.