



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 23, 2019

DATE: March 22, 2019

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Joanne Lowden, Natural Resources Planner,
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THROUGH: Eric Crump, Operations Division Director
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Dave Solaro, Arch., P.E., Assistant County Manager
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to: 1) Approve Amendment #1 to the original Agreement Regarding November 2002 State Question 1: Parks and Open Space Bond Issue – Truckee River – Truckee River Management Plan-One Truckee River Initiative Phases I, II, and III – Project Funding between Washoe County and Nevada Land Trust for an Extension of Time [no fiscal impact to Washoe County]; and 2) authorize the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to execute the amendment and related documents. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

On September 22, 2015, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved a funding agreement between Washoe County and Nevada Land Trust to authorize Washoe County's participation in a collaborative regional Truckee River Management Plan funded through State Question 1 (SQ-1, \$175,000) Truckee River Bond funds. All funds in the agreement slated for Phase I planning have been spent and remaining funds would be used for Phase II and III planning. Approval of the amendment to the agreement changes the ending term from June 30, 2019 to June 30, 2020 (12 months) to allow additional time for Phase II and III planning. The planning effort is being managed by the Nevada Land Trust in partnership with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, on behalf of the One Truckee River (OTR) Partnership.

This agreement contributed to development of the OTR Management Plan, which 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

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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.

Washoe County, through its Community Services Department, is the fiscal agent for SQ-1 bond funds. Additional project contributions are being provided to One Truckee River through Nevada Land Trust and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful by The Truckee River Fund, Truckee River Flood Project, the National Park Service, the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission and R.E.I. This project is on the approved SQ-1 project list and is compliant with SQ-1 guidelines.

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

PREVIOUS ACTION

March 27, 2018, the Board approved an Agreement Regarding November 2002 State Question 1: Parks and Open Space Bond Issue – Truckee River – One Truckee River Implementation Phase – Project Funding [\$300,000 – State Question 1 Truckee River Bond Funds] between Washoe County and Nevada Land Trust; and authorized the Comptroller’s Office to make the appropriate budget adjustments.

November 28, 2017, the Board approved the Resolution to augment the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Washoe County Parks Capital Projects Fund Budget in the amount of [\$4,951,779.00] to increase expenditure authority for various park projects; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the appropriate budget amendments.

September 22, 2015, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved an Agreement Regarding November 2002 State Question 1: Parks and Open Space Bond Issue – Truckee River- Truckee River Management Plan-One Truckee River Initiative Phases I, II and III-Project Funding [\$175,000-State Question 1 Truckee River Bond Funds] between Washoe County and Nevada Land Trust; and authorized the Comptroller’s Office to make the appropriate budget adjustments.

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. All expenditures require a match of cash or value of services, materials or equipment that is equal to 50% of the total project (for each bond dollar spent; an equal dollar must be matched).

In 2003, the Truckee River Fund Working Group was formed and moderated by the Nevada Land Trust. Their diligent work resulted in an approved project list. The proposed project is compliant with the SQ-1 guidelines.

The “Truckee River Management Plan-One Truckee River Initiative Phases I, II and III”, managed by the Nevada Land Trust and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, on behalf of the One Truckee River Partnership, 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 protection and provides a uniform stewardship approach across jurisdictional boundaries and among the many interested agencies and volunteer groups.

Over 25 miles of river corridor are included in phases I through III:

- Phase I includes the river areas from Chalk Bluff Treatment Plant to Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility
- Phase II includes the river areas from the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility east through the canyon, perhaps to the terminus at Pyramid Lake
- Phase III includes the river areas from Chalk Bluff Treatment Plant to the Nevada-California state line.

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.

FISCAL IMPACT

All funds dedicated to Washoe County in SQ-1 legislation for Truckee River projects have been received and deposited to the appropriate cash accounts 4447, 4448, and 4449 in Fund 404-Parks Capital Fund.

Funding for this project was included in the FY 2016 approved Parks Capital Fund in the amount of \$175,000 in PK905124-710400 (Payments to Other Agencies). Balances were carried over for subsequent years and are reflected in the FY2019 budget.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners: 1) Approve Amendment #1 to the original Agreement Regarding November 2002 State Question 1: Parks and Open Space Bond Issue – Truckee River – Truckee River Management Plan-One Truckee River Initiative Phases I, II, and III – Project Funding between Washoe County and Nevada Land Trust for an Extension of Time [no fiscal impact to Washoe County]; and 2) authorize the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to execute the amendment and related documents.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to: 1) Approve Amendment #1 to the original Agreement Regarding November 2002 State Question 1: Parks and Open Space Bond Issue – Truckee River – Truckee River Management Plan-One Truckee River Initiative Phases I, II, and III – Project Funding between Washoe County and Nevada Land Trust for an Extension of Time [no fiscal impact to Washoe County]; and 2) authorize the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to execute the amendment and related documents."