



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 25, 2018

DATE: Wednesday, September 19, 2018

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Tammy Jennings, Assistant Director, Regional Animal Services
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THROUGH: Shyanne Schull, Director of Regional Animal Services

SUBJECT: Approve an agreement between the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno ("NSHE") and Washoe County, by and through Washoe County Regional Animal Services ("WCRAS") for the period September 25, 2018 through August 31, 2020 to allow WCRAS to use certain NSHE real property when it is not occupied and is otherwise available, for the purpose of providing emergency services and temporary shelter when needed for livestock being evacuated due to wildfires, flooding, or other emergency situations in the Northern Nevada and California area. (All Commission Districts).

SUMMARY

The Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno ("NSHE") and Washoe County, by and through Washoe County Regional Animal Services ("WCRAS"), desire to create a short-term licensing agreement for WCRAS to use certain NSHE real property for the purpose of providing emergency services and temporary shelter when needed for livestock being evacuated due to wildfires, flooding, or other emergency situations in the Northern Nevada and California area.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities

PREVIOUS ACTION

None

BACKGROUND

WCRAS plays a vital role in assisting with evacuation and temporary sheltering of livestock and pets during emergencies or disasters. In 2007, the Nevada Legislature enacted NRS 414.095, which requires that each political subdivision's emergency

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management plan address the needs of persons with pets and service animals during and after an emergency or disaster.

In the summer of 2017 alone, WCRAS set up seven emergency shelters for over 200 evacuated animals. Several of those shelters required livestock housing.

In 2016, during the Little Valley Fire, the UNR Equestrian Center was utilized as one of two primary evacuation shelters for livestock. Seventy-seven horses were evacuated and housed at the UNR Equestrian Center during that fire event.

WCRAS commonly utilizes the Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center for an emergency shelter venue. However, if there is a calendared event taking place at the venue, it is unavailable for emergencies. WCRAS needs to have an alternate location available that can accommodate livestock.

NSHE operates an equestrian center on its UNR campus that has adequate individual housing for over fifty head of livestock as well as group housing in their turnout paddock areas. The venue provides sufficient space to separate different species of animals from one another, as well as separate special needs animals, such as a stallion or a nursing mare. There is adequate access to water and animal loading areas. The facility is secured after hours. There is also ample space for feed delivery and vehicle parking. The facility is centrally located in Reno, making for a convenient location in close proximity to northern and western regional emergency management needs.

NSHE is willing to allow Washoe County to utilize its UNR campus for the purpose of providing emergency services and temporary shelter when needed for livestock being evacuated due to wildfires, flooding, or other emergency situations in the Northern Nevada and California area. Both NSHE and Washoe County believe that a formal licensing agreement is necessary to implement prior to an actual evacuation emergency.

The licensing agreement provides for a 2 year right to use, lease or license such property without paying a use fee. In consideration for such usage, Washoe County agrees to abide by the terms set forth in the Agreement and to indemnify NSHE for any expenses that may arise by WCRAS's actions or failure to act which may arise out of the performance of this agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the Board approve the Agreement there will be no additional fiscal impact to the FY19 adopted budget as all expenses incurred while WCRAS uses NSHE property during an emergency will be absorbed within the FY19 adopted budget.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve an agreement between the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno ("NSHE") and Washoe County, by and through Washoe County Regional Animal Services ("WCRAS") for the period September 25, 2018 through August 31, 2020 to allow WCRAS to use certain NSHE real property when it is not occupied and is otherwise available, for the purpose of providing emergency services and temporary shelter when needed for livestock being evacuated due to wildfires, flooding, or other emergency situations in the Northern Nevada and California area.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

Approve an agreement between the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno ("NSHE") and Washoe County, by and through Washoe County Regional Animal Services ("WCRAS") for the period September 25, 2018 through August 31, 2020 to allow WCRAS to use certain NSHE real property when it is not occupied and is otherwise available, for the purpose of providing emergency services and temporary shelter when needed for livestock being evacuated due to wildfires, flooding, or other emergency situations in the Northern Nevada and California area.