

Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: November 20, 2025

DATE: November 6, 2025
TO: District Board of Health
FROM: Anne Stoll-Truelock, Fiscal Compliance Officer
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David Kelly, Environmental Health Specialist Supervisor
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SUBJECT: Approve the Subgrant Agreement between the State of Nevada, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Bureau of Safe Drinking Water and Northern Nevada Public Health, effective upon NDEP Administrator's approval through September 30, 2029 in the total amount of \$262,000.00 (no match required), in support of the Environmental Health Services Division (EHS) Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and Residential Wells programs; and if approved, authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Agreement and any future amendments.

SUMMARY

The Environmental Health Services Division received the attached Subgrant Agreement from the State of Nevada, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Bureau of Safe Drinking Water on October 9, 2025, to support the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and Residential Wells programs effective upon NDEP Administrator's approval through September 30, 2029. A copy of the Subgrant Agreement is attached.

District Health Strategic Priorities supported by this item:

2. **Healthy Environment:** Create a healthier environment that allows people to safely enjoy everything Washoe County has to offer.
5. **Organizational Capacity:** Strengthen our workforce and increase operational capacity to support a growing population.

PREVIOUS ACTION

There has been no action taken by the Board this year.

BACKGROUND

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a large, complex group of man-made chemicals.

PFAS have been used in countless consumer and industrial products, including:

- Nonstick cookware (e.g., Teflon)
- Stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpets (e.g., Scotchgard)
- Firefighting foams (Aqueous Film-Forming Foams or AFFF)
- Food packaging (grease-resistant paper)
- Certain cleaning products and cosmetics

The persistence and bioaccumulation of PFAS in the environment and in living organisms are the primary reasons for global concern. Most Americans have detectable levels of PFAS in their blood. Decades of use have resulted in widespread contamination of soil, air, groundwater, and surface water, particularly near manufacturing facilities, military bases (from AFFF use), and landfills. The EPA is in the process of regulating PFAS in public drinking water wells

Scientific studies, including those by the EPA and the National Toxicology Program (NTP), have linked exposure to certain PFAS (like PFOA and PFOS) to a range of potential adverse health effects:

- Immune System: Decreased vaccine response, immune dysfunction.
- Reproductive/Developmental: Low infant birth weight, fertility issues, and pre-eclampsia/pregnancy-induced hypertension.
- Endocrine Disruption: Increased cholesterol, liver damage, and thyroid disease.
- Cancer Risk: Increased risk of certain cancers, notably testicular and kidney cancer.

The presence of PFAS poses a significant, evolving challenge with implications for public health.

This grant will allow NNPH to provide free well water sampling to 300 residents and provide an avenue to potentially identify an emerging contaminant in the local aquifers. The data collected will help NNPH and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection determine the potential spread of PFAS in local aquifers and create a plan for mitigating any potential effects.

This Subgrant provides for personnel, operating, lab testing services, and other.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the Board approve the Subgrant Agreement, a request will be made to the Board of County Commissioners to amend FY26 budget, increasing it by \$227,826.09 (\$34,173.91 indirect expenses) in the following accounts:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>General Ledger</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount of Increase</u>
2002 – IO TBD	-431100	Federal Grants	\$ 227,826.09
		Total Revenue:	\$
2002 – IO TBD	-701412	Salary Adjustment	\$ 47,021.57
2002 – IO TBD	-705360	Benefit Adjustment	\$ 43,404.52
2002 – IO TBD	-710101	Lab Testing Services	\$ 127,400.00
2002 – IO TBD	-710300	Operating Supplies	\$ 2,500.00
2002 – IO TBD	-710360	Postage	\$ 5,000.00
2002 – IO TBD	-710509	Seminars & Meetings	\$ 2,500.00
		Total Expenditures:	\$ 227,826.09

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the District Board of Health approve the Subgrant Agreement between the State of Nevada, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Bureau of Safe Drinking Water and Northern Nevada Public Health, effective upon NDEP Administrator's approval through September 30, 2029 in the total amount of \$262,000.00 (no match required), in support of the Environmental Health Services Division (EHS) Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and Residential Wells programs; and if approved, authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Agreement and any future amendments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be "Move to approve the Subgrant Agreement between the State of Nevada, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Bureau of Safe Drinking Water and Northern Nevada Public Health, effective upon NDEP Administrator's approval through September 30, 2029 in the total amount of \$262,000.00 (no match required), in support of the Environmental Health Services Division (EHS) Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and Residential Wells programs; and if approved, authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Agreement and any future amendments."