



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 28, 2019

**DATE:** April 26, 2019

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Dwayne Smith, P.E., Division Director, Engineering and Capital Projects  
Community Services Department, 328-2043, [desmith@washoecounty.us](mailto:desmith@washoecounty.us)

**THROUGH:** Dave Solaro, Arch., P.E., Assistant County Manager

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve an Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County and the City of Reno for Municipal Wastewater Services (StoneGate Development) establishing the rights and responsibilities for the conveyance, treatment and effluent management of wastewater flows from the StoneGate Master Planned Community to the Washoe County Cold Springs Water Reclamation Facility. (Commission District 5.)

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### SUMMARY

The purpose of this Interlocal Agreement (ILA) is to identify the responsibilities of Washoe County and the City of Reno associated with sanitary sewer service for the proposed StoneGate Development. StoneGate is a master-planned community project consisting of up to 5,000 residential parcels and approximately 20 acres identified for various commercial uses within an overall  $\pm 1,738$  acre project site. It is located in the western portion of the Cold Springs Hydrobasin, on the west side of Highway 395.

The ILA specifically identifies the responsibilities associated with the review and conditioning of sanitary sewer infrastructure plans, assessment and collection of sanitary sewer development and user fees and confirmation of who is responsible for the maintenance, repair, and replacement of Washoe County sanitary sewer infrastructure located within City of Reno rights-of-way and the associated permitting processes. This ILA follows a memorandum of understanding between Washoe County and the City of Reno approved in December 2018.

Strategic Objectives supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

On December 11, 2018, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved a Memorandum of Understanding between Washoe County and the City of Reno establishing the rights and responsibilities for the conveyance, treatment and effluent management of wastewater flows from the StoneGate Master Planned Community to the Washoe County Cold Springs Water Reclamation Facility.

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

## **BACKGROUND**

Washoe County owns and operates the Cold Springs Water Reclamation Facility (CSWRF), the only municipal waste water treatment facility in the area. When the StoneGate project area was initially annexed into Reno in 2005, it was anticipated that wastewater treatment and effluent management would be provided by Washoe County and this approach was affirmed in 2018 when the project was approved with conditions including the conveyance of all waste water flows to Washoe County's Cold Springs Water Reclamation Facility (CSWRF) for treatment.

The project area was previously referred to as Heinz Ranch and waste water flows from this area were included in both the 2002 Cold Springs Wastewater Facility Plan and the 2017 Cold Spring Wastewater System Facility Plan. While prior land use planning identified lower densities before the Project was identified, annexed by the City of Reno in 2007 resulted in a density increase and subsequently new flow projections were developed. The current facility plan identifies the necessary infrastructure improvements for the treatment of planned sanitary sewer flows as the area experiences additional growth. New development will be responsible to construct and dedicate the necessary conveyance infrastructure and also to pay approved facility connection fees to allow for future treatment plant expansion when needed. The facility plan also identified adequate effluent management capacity within the existing rapid infiltration basins for the next 20 years. Recognizing new opportunities associated with treated effluent, the StoneGate developer has committed to participate in testing and pilot programs to explore the feasibility of alternative uses of treated effluent.

There is currently an agreement between Washoe County and the City of Reno for municipal wastewater conveyance and treatment in the South Truckee Meadows area, an area where a significant number of City of Reno residents sewer to Washoe County's South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (STMWRF). That agreement identifies that all on-site sanitary sewer collection pipes are owned, operated, maintained and replaced by the City of Reno. The agreement also identifies that the large diameter (30-inch and larger) interceptors located in City of Reno streets are owned by Washoe County.

The agreement also identifies a process for the payment of connection fees and user fees. While this approach may have been adequate when the systems were much smaller as the system has grown many issues have arisen with billing, permitting, and maintenance. Staff of both Washoe County and the City of Reno are continuously challenged keeping the roles and responsibilities aligned with different practices at each organization. This ILA for the StoneGate system takes the lessons learned over many years and applies them in a way that will make management of the sewer system as a whole easier for Washoe County.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

All infrastructure costs are the responsibility of the developer and no Washoe County General Fund or Utility Fund monies will be used for the design and construction of sanitary sewer infrastructure associated with this development. As required under Washoe County Ordinance, the developer will pay all required development fees including, but not limited to, sanitary sewer connection fees associated with the proposed development. Subsequently, each residential property owner, business, and/or school will pay monthly user fees as identified in the Sanitary

Sewer Rates, Tolls, and Charges Ordinance that are used to operate, maintain, repair and replace sanitary sewer infrastructure.

All offsite sanitary sewer infrastructure including, but not limited to, collection system piping, lift stations(s), and force mains necessary to convey waste water to the CSWRF for treatment and effluent management will be designed and built by the developer at their sole cost and dedicated to Washoe County to own, operate, maintain, repair and replace.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve an Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County and the City of Reno for Municipal Wastewater Services (StoneGate Development) establishing the rights and responsibilities for the conveyance, treatment and effluent management of wastewater flows from the StoneGate Master Planned Community to the Washoe County Cold Springs Water Reclamation Facility.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board of County Commissioners agree with staff's recommendation a possible motion would be: "Move to approve an Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County and the City of Reno for Municipal Wastewater Services (StoneGate Development) establishing the rights and responsibilities for the conveyance, treatment and effluent management of wastewater flows from the StoneGate Master Planned Community to the Washoe County Cold Springs Water Reclamation Facility."