



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 16, 2022

**DATE:** July 21, 2022

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Dylan Menes, S.E., P.E., Senior Licensed Engineer, Engineering and Capital Projects, Community Services Dept., 775-328-2054, [dmenes@washoecounty.gov](mailto:dmenes@washoecounty.gov)

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

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve a permanent non-exclusive Grant of Power Easement between Washoe County (“Grantor”) and NV Energy (“Grantee”) on a portion of APN-556-290-04, located on Mudsprings Road, Cold Springs, Nevada, to construct, operate, add to, modify, maintain and remove aboveground and/or underground communication facilities and electrical line systems for the distribution and transmission of electricity to a new Emergency Service Communication Facility operated by Washoe County Technology Services [for the value of One Dollar (\$1.00)]. (Commission District 5.)

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### SUMMARY

Washoe County owns a 73.4-acre site (APN 556-290-04) located on Mudsprings Road which contains the Cold Springs Water Reclamation Facility (CSWRF) in Cold Springs, Nevada. Washoe County Technology Services is constructing a new Cold Springs Radio Communication Facility located on the same parcel. NV Energy is requiring a permanent, non-exclusive easement for transmission of power to the communications facility. This proposed easement is located within areas that are already encumbered with other utility and access easements and does not diminish Washoe County Utility’s use of the site.

This proposed easement will support the new communications facility that will be part of the Nevada Shared Radio System and will address a significant gap in coverage in this area by providing better emergency response opportunities for law enforcement, fire, and emergency responders within the North Valleys areas. This communications facility will also provide redundant and resilient emergency communication links for the Community Services Department Utility by providing communications between CSWRF and the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facilities (STMWRF). Granting of this easement will have no impact on the functionality of CSWRF for the Utility.

**Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:** Economic Impacts: Support a thriving community

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

## **PREVIOUS ACTION**

On July 7, 2022, Washoe County Board of Adjustment approved with conditions Special Use Permit Case Number WSUP22-0013 for Washoe County, with the conditions included as Exhibit A to this matter, having made all five findings in accordance with Washoe County Code Section 110.810.30.

On May 26, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) accepted and ratified the Washoe County Regional Communication System P25 Radio System Interlocal Agreement which establishes an operational and management structure that provides the opportunity for signing agencies to participate in the ongoing governance, administration, and management of the P25 Radio System; and a framework to allocate costs of the system to signing agencies proportionate to their use of the radio system.

On November 13, 2018, the Board approved the Professional Services to Provide a Wastewater and Reclaim Water Control System Master Plan and Operational Improvements for the Washoe County SCADA Networks to prepare a master plan and recommendations for the Utility.

On September 25, 2018, the Board approved the System Purchase Agreement between Washoe County and Harris Corporation, Communications System Segment, in the amount of [\$26,537,510.68]; and authorized the Washoe County Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement.

On May 9, 2017, the Board approved of and directed the Washoe County Manager to sign the Nevada Shared Radio System Contract by and between the State of Nevada acting through its Department of Transportation, NV Energy and Washoe County, Nevada, as recommended by the Joint Operating Committee (JOC) of the Washoe County Regional Communications System.

On December 13, 2016, the Board held a second reading and adopted an amendment to WCC 5.456 authorizing the Chief Information Officer to negotiate and execute agreements with other public and private entities as are required to assure the continued present and future operation of Washoe County's emergency radio system(s) and to present such agreements to the Washoe County Board of Commissioners for final approval when required by law or policy; and describing that such agreements may include, without limitation, provisions for sharing the use, governance, operation, maintenance, and upgrade of any Washoe County radio system with other public or private entities, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

On July 14, 2015, the Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding confirming the intent of the State of Nevada, Washoe County Regional Communications System and NV Energy to move forward as a cohesive communications system to obtain a replacement public safety Project 25 Phase II communications system of a common manufacturer to assure a fully compatible statewide system.

## **BACKGROUND**

The State of Nevada Department of Transportation, Washoe County Regional Communications System (WCRCS) and NV Energy, partners in the Nevada Shared Radio System (NSRS), have recognized the need for a shared statewide communications

network to be used for daily operations, interagency communication, interoperability, and emergency communications. The NV Energy easement through the Washoe County Utility parcel will be needed to achieve this.

Engineering of the new P25 Radio System identified the coverages gaps in Cold Springs around Highway 395 as one of the most critical areas in need of public safety communications. Currently, a mountain range blocks most coverage going into Cold Springs, the Reno Sparks Indian Colony and Hungry Valley. It was determined that building a facility that could cover the Cold Springs and adjoining areas, as far as Spanish Springs, would help the State reach its goal to cover 93% of the highways and by-ways with public safety radio coverage.

The subject easement will also benefit the County's utility by fulfilling the requirements of its SCADA Master Plan and providing a robust and resilient emergency operations capability between the Utility's two major wastewater treatment plants.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the easement be approved, there would be no fiscal impact to Washoe County.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners move to approve a permanent non-exclusive Grant of Power Easement between Washoe County ("Grantor") and NV Energy ("Grantee") on a portion of APN-556-290-04, located on Mudsprings Road, Cold Springs, Nevada, to construct, operate, add to, modify, maintain and remove aboveground and/or underground communication facilities and electrical line systems for the distribution and transmission of electricity to a new Emergency Service Communication Facility operated by Washoe County Technology Services [for the value of One Dollar (\$1.00)].

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with Staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve a permanent non-exclusive Grant of Power Easement between Washoe County ("Grantor") and NV Energy ("Grantee") on a portion of APN-556-290-04, located on Mudsprings Road, Cold Springs, Nevada, to construct, operate, add to, modify, maintain and remove aboveground and/or underground communication facilities and electrical line systems for the distribution and transmission of electricity to a new Emergency Service Communication Facility operated by Washoe County Technology Services [for the value of One Dollar (\$1.00)]."