



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: December 11, 2018

DATE: November 21, 2018

TO: Board of County Commissioners

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

THROUGH: Dave Solaro, Arch., P.E., Assistant County Manager
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SUBJECT: Approve 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. (Commission District 4.)

SUMMARY

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Washoe County and the City of Reno ("Parties") is to provide a general outline of the understanding of the Parties hereto regarding municipal waste water treatment and effluent management associated with the proposed StoneGate Master Planned Community (StoneGate). The MOU generally identifies the responsibility for the review and conditioning of sanitary sewer infrastructure, assessment and collection of sanitary sewer development and user fees and confirmation for Washoe County to obtain the required permits for work associated with maintenance, repair, and replacement of Washoe County sanitary sewer infrastructure located within City of Reno rights-of-way. This MOU precedes an interlocal agreement between Washoe County and the City of Reno.

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

PREVIOUS ACTION

There has been no previous action regarding this item.

BACKGROUND

Washoe County owns and operates the Cold Springs Water Reclamation Facility (CSWRF).

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, when this area was annexed into the City of Reno in 2007 and the current planned unit development (PUD) handbook densities were approved, the

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density increased 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 MOU 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

There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners approve 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.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve 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."