



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 8, 2019

DATE: December 7, 2018

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Chris Benedict, Remediation District Program Manager,
Community Services Dept., 954-4642, cbenedict@washoecounty.us,

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

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve: 1) an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Reno for Environmental Control Inspection Services in Unincorporated Areas of Washoe County, Nevada, retroactive to January 1, 2019 to provide permitting, inspection, monitoring and enforcement services; and 2) approve an Interlocal Agreement for Environmental Control Inspection Services in Unincorporated Areas of Washoe County between Washoe County and the City of Sparks, retroactive to January 1, 2019, to provide permitting, inspection, monitoring and enforcement services. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The cities of Reno and Sparks have been providing environmental control services associated with management of industrial and commercial sanitary sewer discharges in the unincorporated area on behalf of the County through environmental control inter-local agreements (ILAs). The current agreements date back to 2000 and are in force but require updates.

The need to replace the current ILAs was identified during the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Pretreatment Compliance Inspection (PCI) conducted in 2015. In the resultant PCI Report, USEPA required that the cities and County work together to "...ensure there is adequate legal authority to regulate industrial users and enforce pretreatment requirements within Washoe County." This requirement is being met through revisions to the County sewer discharge ordinance and through these new ILAs. These new ILAs also allow the cities to support the County with environmental control services related to stormwater permitting and regulation processes for commercial and industrial development in the unincorporated area.

Both Cities have maintained environmental control programs and recognizing the efficiencies and consistent approach for these services, Washoe County benefits from the continued program and therefore recommends the identified updates to the agreements.

The ILAs are retroactive to January 1, 2019, to simplify the reporting requirements in conjunction with the start of a calendar year. If approved, these ILAs will replace the current ILAs in whole.

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

AGENDA ITEM # _____

PREVIOUS ACTION

On July 11, 2000, the Board of County Commissioners approved the current Environmental Control Inter-Local Agreements (one between Washoe County and Reno, and one between Washoe County and Sparks).

BACKGROUND

Federal Regulations (40 CFR) require an Environmental Control Program for any Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) with a flow greater than 5 million gallons per day (MGD). While the County POTWs typically do not exceed 5 MGD, it is protective of County infrastructure, the environment and County residents to have environmental controls in place. Any discharge (effluent and/or sludge) from a County POTW and/or industrial or commercial wastewater permittee to the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF) require that POTW and/or industrial or commercial wastewater permittee to operate under a USEPA approved pretreatment program. TMWRF, which operates and discharges to the Truckee River under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, requires that all discharges received occur under an approved pretreatment program. The County has been having the cities of Reno and Sparks provide environmental control services in the unincorporated area on behalf of the County. These services, including wastewater and stormwater inspection of commercial and industrial permittees, have been provided through Environmental Control Interlocal Agreements (ILAs) with each city. The current agreements date back to 2000.

The need to update these ILAs was identified during the USEPA PCI conducted in 2015. In the resultant PCI Report, USEPA required that the cities and County work together to “...ensure there is adequate legal authority to regulate industrial users and enforce pretreatment requirements within Washoe County.” This requirement is being met by ongoing revisions to the County sewer discharge ordinance and by updates to these ILAs. Changes to the ILAs will also formalize the support provided to the County by the cities with environmental control services related to the stormwater permitting and regulation processes for commercial and industrial development in the unincorporated area.

As under the current ILAs: Sparks will continue to provide environmental control services to the County in the unincorporated part of Spanish Springs and the Truckee Canyon; and, Reno will continue to provide environmental control services to the County in the unincorporated part of the North Valleys and southernmost Washoe County.

FISCAL IMPACT

The current ILAs require that Washoe County pay the cities quarterly for the aforementioned environmental control services. Expense for these charges post to GL account 710100 Professional Services in internal orders established in cost center 664900 within the Utilities Fund (566). Per Ordinance No. 1615, Washoe County then bills the costs to the commercial or industrial customers. Revenue for these billings posts to GL account 491032 Sewer Miscellaneous in cost center 664900 within the Utilities Fund.

The proposed ILAs will not change this practice, so there is no new fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners approve: 1) an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Reno for Environmental Control Inspection Services in

Unincorporated Areas of Washoe County, Nevada, retroactive to January 1, 2019 to provide permitting, inspection, monitoring and enforcement services; and 2) approve an Interlocal Agreement for Environmental Control Inspection Services in Unincorporated Areas of Washoe County between Washoe County and the City of Sparks, retroactive to January 1, 2019, to provide permitting, inspection, monitoring and enforcement services.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:
"Move to approve: approve: 1) an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Reno for Environmental Control Inspection Services in Unincorporated Areas of Washoe County, Nevada, retroactive to January 1, 2019 to provide permitting, inspection, monitoring and enforcement services; and 2) approve an Interlocal Agreement for Environmental Control Inspection Services in Unincorporated Areas of Washoe County between Washoe County and the City of Sparks, retroactive to January 1, 2019, to provide permitting, inspection, monitoring and enforcement services."