



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

**BOARD MEETING DATE: April 23, 2019**

**DATE:** March 22, 2019

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Joanne Lowden, Natural Resources Planner,  
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**THROUGH:** Eric Crump, Operations Division Director  
Community Services Department, 328-3624, [ecrump@washoecounty.us](mailto:ecrump@washoecounty.us)  
Dave Solaro, Arch., P.E., Assistant County Manager  
Community Services Department, 328-3600, [dsolaro@washoecounty.us](mailto:dsolaro@washoecounty.us)

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to: 1) Approve Amendment #1 to the original Agreement Regarding November 2002 State Question 1: Parks and Open Space Bond Issue – Truckee River - One Truckee River Implementation Phase – Project Funding between Washoe County and Nevada Land Trust for an extension of time [no fiscal impact to Washoe County]; and 2) authorize the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to execute the amendment and related documents. (All Commission Districts.)

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### **SUMMARY**

On March 27, 2018, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved a funding agreement between Washoe County and Nevada Land Trust to authorize Washoe County's participation in the implementation phase of the collaborative regional One Truckee River (OTR) Management Plan funded through State Question 1 (SQ-1, \$300,000) Truckee River Bond funds. The agreement includes funding for a Truckee River Master Signage Plan and fabrication and installation of recommended signs. The Master Signage Plan is expected to be completed in April 2019. Approval of the amendment to the agreement changes the ending term from June 30, 2019 to June 30, 2020 (12 months) to allow time for sign fabrication and installation. The planning effort is being managed by the Nevada Land Trust in partnership with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, on behalf of the One Truckee River Partnership.

The OTR Project is a collaboration of public and private partners working together for a Truckee River that flows clear and clean, quenches our thirst, sustains the river's natural ecology, cultural resources and wildlife, and connects residents and visitors to unparalleled opportunities for recreation and regenerations. The OTR Management Plan is the result of over two years of work with over 130 stakeholders to develop over 120 strategies and recommendations to create a sustainable, clean and thriving river community. It was adopted by Washoe County, City of Reno and the City of Sparks in September of 2016. Since its adoption, the OTR Stakeholders have been working on implementing the plan with four main goals: 1) Ensure and protect water quality and ecosystem health in the Truckee River, 2) Create and sustain a safe, beautiful and accessible river connecting people and places, 3) Build an aware and engaged community

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that protects and cares for the river, and 4) Ensure the measurable, sustainable and collaborative management of the river for today and into the future.

The funding agreement fulfills many of the strategies identified with Goal #2, and will help create a much more user friendly and consistent signage and visitor center messaging along the river. The agreement provides funding for a Master Signage Plan for the Truckee River across all jurisdictions. Once the Master Signage Plan is complete, the SQ1 funds will be utilized for implementation of the recommended signage and visitor kiosks along the river.

Washoe County, through its Community Services Department, is the fiscal agent for SQ-1 bond funds. Additional project contributions are being provided to One Truckee River through Nevada Land Trust and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful by The Truckee River Fund, Truckee River Flood Project, the National Park Service, the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission and R.E.I. This project is on the approved SQ-1 project list and is compliant with SQ-1 guidelines.

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

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

**March 27, 2018**, the Board approved an Agreement Regarding November 2002 State Question 1: Parks and Open Space Bond Issue – Truckee River – One Truckee River Implementation Phase – Project Funding [\$300,000 – State Question 1 Truckee River Bond Funds] between Washoe County and Nevada Land Trust; and authorized the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget adjustments.

**November 28, 2017**, the Board approved the Resolution to augment the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Washoe County Parks Capital Projects Fund Budget in the amount of [\$4,951,779.00] to increase expenditure authority for various park projects; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget amendments.

**September 22, 2015**, the Board approved an Agreement Regarding November 2002 State Question 1: Parks and Open Space Bond Issue – Truckee River- Truckee River Management Plan-One Truckee River Initiative Phases I, II and III-Project Funding [\$175,000-State Question 1 Truckee River Bond Funds] between Washoe County and Nevada Land Trust; and authorized the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget adjustments.

**August 12, 2014**, the Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding, A Contract Between the State of Nevada Acting by and Through its Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Washoe County, a Political Subdivision of the State of Nevada Acting by and Through its Community Services Department-Regional Parks and Open Space to extend the funding arrangement on State Question 1 projects retroactive to July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2019.

**January 10, 2012**, the Board accepted the third and final draw of \$2,000,000 of State Question 1 bond proceeds from State of Nevada for previously approved Truckee River Projects.

**October 25, 2011**, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign, Amendment #2 to "Memorandum of Understanding-A Contract Between the State of Nevada Acting by and Through its Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Washoe

County, a Political Subdivision of the State of Nevada Acting by and Through its Parks and Recreation Department” to extend the funding contract on State Question 1 projects to June 30, 2014.

**March 24, 2009**, the Board reviewed the approved the project list and endorsed the vetting and selection process of the SQ-1 Truckee River project list.

**October 14, 2008**, the Board approved Amendment #1 to the MOU with State of Nevada for SQ-1 funding, extended the compliance date for implementation of projects to December 31, 2011 and accepted second installment funds of \$4,000,000.

**November 25, 2003**, the Board authorized the execution of the MOU and receipt of \$10,000,000 in SQ-1 bond payments to be paid in installments, and accepted the first installment of \$4,000,000.

**July 15, 2003**, the Board approved the SQ-1 Truckee River project list.

**April 15, 2003**, the Board reviewed the process for choosing, scoring and prioritizing SQ-1-Truckee River projects.

### **BACKGROUND**

In the November 5, 2002 General Election, the voters of the State of Nevada approved SQ-1 (aka AB9), approving the issuance of general obligation bonds to preserve, protect and obtain the benefits of property and natural resources in the State. Section 2, subsection 6 of the enabling legislation specifically allocated a total of \$10,000,000 to Washoe County to enhance and restore the Truckee River corridor. The funds must be used to acquire and develop land and water rights; provide for recreational facilities; provide parking for and access to and along the river; and restore the river. All expenditures require a match of cash or value of services, materials or equipment that is equal to 50% of the total project (for each bond dollar spent; an equal dollar must be matched).

In 2003, the Truckee River Fund Working Group was formed and moderated by the Nevada Land Trust. Their diligent work resulted in an approved project list. The proposed project is compliant with the SQ-1 guidelines.

The “Truckee River Management Plan-One Truckee River Initiative Phases I, II and III”, managed by the Nevada Land Trust and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, on behalf of the One Truckee River Partnership, is a collaborative regional assessment and planning effort for over 25 miles of Truckee River habitat, recreation, cultural resources, restoration, water quality, invasive plant species and environmental education needs. It identifies best management practices, habitat and environmental protection and provides a uniform stewardship approach across jurisdictional boundaries and among the many interested agencies and volunteer groups.

Over 25 miles of river corridor are included in phases I through III:

- Phase I includes the river areas from Chalk Bluff Treatment Plant to Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility
- Phase II includes the river areas from the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility east through the canyon, perhaps to the terminus at Pyramid Lake
- Phase III includes the river areas from Chalk Bluff Treatment Plant to the Nevada-California state line.

The OTR Management plan is the result of over two years of work with over 130 stakeholders to develop over 120 strategies and recommendations to create a sustainable, clean and thriving river community. It was adopted by Washoe County, City of Reno and the City of Sparks in September of 2016. Since its adoption the OTR Stakeholders have been working on implementing the plan with four main goals: 1) Ensure and protect water quality and ecosystem health in the Truckee River, 2) Create and sustain a safe, beautiful and accessible river connecting people and places, 3) Build an aware and engaged community that protects and cares for the river, and 4) Ensure the measurable, sustainable and collaborative management of the river for today and into the future.

This funding agreement fulfills many of the strategies identified with Goal #2, and will help create a much more user friendly and consistent signage and visitor center messaging along the river. A Master Signage Plan across jurisdictions is being developed through a collaborative planning process. Once the Master Signage Plan is complete, the SQ1 funds will be applied to purchase and install recommended signage and visitor kiosks along the river.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

All funds dedicated to Washoe County in SQ-1 legislation for Truckee River projects have been received and deposited to the appropriate cash accounts 4447, 4448, and 4449 in Fund 404-Parks Capital Fund.

Funding for this project was originally included in the FY 2017-2018 approved Parks Capital Fund in the amount of \$300,000 in PK905124-710400 (Payments to Other Agencies) and balances were carried over and reflected in the FY2019 budget.

An Interlocal agreement for maintenance of the signage and kiosks will be developed through the One Truckee River partnership.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners: 1) Approve Amendment #1 to the original Agreement Regarding November 2002 State Question 1: Parks and Open Space Bond Issue – Truckee River - One Truckee River Implementation Phase – Project Funding between Washoe County and Nevada Land Trust for an extension of time [no fiscal impact to Washoe County]; and 2) authorize the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to execute the amendment and related documents.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to: 1) Approve Amendment #1 to the original Agreement Regarding November 2002 State Question 1: Parks and Open Space Bond Issue – Truckee River - One Truckee River Implementation Phase – Project Funding between Washoe County and Nevada Land Trust for an extension of time [no fiscal impact to Washoe County]; and 2) authorize the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to execute the amendment and related documents."