



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

www.washoecounty.us

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 6, 2019

DATE: July 29, 2019

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Dave Solaro, Arch., P.E., Interim County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to affirm the use of funds received from the sale of water rights in fiscal year 2017 (FY17) within the Capital Improvements Fund [in the approximate amount of \$2,500,000] for costs associated with implementation of short term lake management strategies in fiscal year 2020 (FY20). (Commission District 5.)

SUMMARY

Affirmation from the Board of County Commissioners (Board) is being sought to utilize funds received from the sale of water rights in FY17 for costs associated with implementation of short term lake management strategies to include:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

- Washoe County has applied for this grant and it is currently under review by FEMA which includes four properties for home acquisition and demolition.

Lake Containment

- Utilize the existing sand berm as the eastern boundary of the lake to allow for water management and remove the barrier system along Lemmon Drive. The closure will include a valve system to allow for water management between the berm and Lemmon Drive. Water management is necessary to increase the volume of the lake to provide for manageable water storage and evaporation.
- Remove barrier along Lemmon Drive and connect protections between Lear Boulevard to Lemmon Drive behind Lemmon Valley Elementary School.
- When water elevation allows, remove Tiger Dam and install semi-permanent berm behind the properties along Pompe Way.

Evaporation Enhancement

- Aeration – Process of utilizing aerial dispersion to help evaporation by dispersing small droplets of water into the air creating larger surface area.
- Land application – Process of applying water from the lake to the existing ground for the purpose of quicker water disposal. Two areas are being considered, one to the south east of the lake and one on Washoe County (American Flat) property north of the Stead Airport.

This action supports the Washoe County Strategic initiative of developing and implementing near term solutions for the closed basins in the North Valleys.

PREVIOUS ACTION

April 9, 2019 – The Board provided direction to the Community Services Department related to a matrix of solutions for actions to be brought back to the Board for approval.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

June 27, 2017 – The Board approved the commitment of proceeds received from the sale of water rights in Fiscal Year 2017 totaling \$2,895,600 in the Capital Improvements Fund for costs associated with the January and February 2017 flooding events.

BACKGROUND

Current direction by the Board includes continued upkeep, maintenance, and response focused on providing for life safety to the rising waters of Swan Lake located in the closed hydrographic basin known as the East Lemmon Valley Hydrographic Basin within Washoe County. The protections were put into place during the 2016/2017 water year which ran from October 2016 through September 2017. During that water year, a series of storms (atmospheric rivers) beginning in October 2016 and continuing through February 2017 impacted our entire region with record level rains and snows. The continued rain events in the lower elevations resulted in saturated soil conditions and extensive runoff of stormwater.

In the North Valleys of Washoe County, three closed hydrographic basins, basins which have no natural outlet in recent historic times, transformed from dry lake beds into lakes. In response to the return of the lakes, Washoe County and regional partners installed barriers and pumps to remove rising waters from neighborhoods within FEMA identified floodplains.

Staff, at the direction of the Board, has developed and presented to the Board a matrix of possible solutions, and received direction to bring items back for action. The items described in the summary section of this staff report are the items that are being developed for implementation. Staff will begin implementation if the Board agrees with the recommendation of staff.

FISCAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2020 Fund 402 will need to be augmented via separate Board action for budget authority of approximately \$2,500,000. Any variance between Fiscal Year 2019 unaudited financials used for the augmentation and the audited financials will be brought to the Board if necessary.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners affirm the use of funds received from the sale of water rights in fiscal year 2017 (FY17) within the Capital Improvements Fund in the approximate amount of \$2,500,000 for costs associated with implementation of short term lake management strategies in fiscal year 2020 (FY20).

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to affirm the use of funds received from the sale of water rights in fiscal year 2017 (FY17) within the Capital Improvements Fund in the approximate amount of \$2,500,000 for costs associated with implementation of short term lake management strategies in fiscal year 2020 (FY20)."