



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 14, 2020

DATE: March 3, 2020

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Dylan Menes, SE, PE, Sr. Licensed Engineer., Engineering & Capital Projects
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THROUGH: Dwayne Smith, PE, Division Director, Engineering & Capital Projects
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to authorize purchase orders for emergency agreements and construction contracts for the continued operation of the 2019 mitigation and response measures associated with both the Lemmon Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant for seepage and backup pumping systems associated with the treatment plant and collection system [not to exceed \$100,000], and for the continuation of the rental, operation, and maintenance of the pumping system around Swan Lake to mitigate flood and storm waters [not to exceed \$350,000]. (Commission District 5.)

SUMMARY

Following the 2017 Federally declared flood emergency and continuing with the significant precipitation of 2019, Washoe County Community Services Department has contracted with Cashman Equipment to deploy and maintain a system of seepage and stormwater pumps around the perimeter of Swan Lake. While the HESCO barriers, soil berms and inflatable barriers are very successful in preventing lake water from closing roadways and protecting houses, stormwater and seepage that accumulates on the outside of the barrier system is pumped into Swan Lake with these strategically located pumps and piping systems.

Similarly, Washoe County Utilities initiated an emergency set of measures to maintain successful operation and protection of the Lemmon Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant (LVWWTP). Utilities staff responds to the continuous need to pump out both precipitation water and persistent seepage of Swan Lake water that passes through the protective berms that surround the facility and that ultimately accumulates in low areas adjacent to the portions of the treatment plant.

Also, as a result of the persistent elevated lake levels, the sewer collection system has experienced significant inflow and infiltration (I&I), specifically along a section of conveyance piping located near the treatment plant. To prevent excessive Swan Lake water entering the treatment facility the County contracted with Cashman Equipment to implement bypass pump operations in the spring of 2019 in order to bypass submerged portions of the sanitary sewer collection system near the lake as well as dewater the treatment plant.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

The initial contract amount of \$150,000 for the Utilities portion of the pumping costs has been spent. This request seeks to extend the contracts with Cashman Equipment to continue to maintain and operate the sewer bypass facilities, the LVWWTP dewatering pumping, and the perimeter seepage and stormwater pumping operations through June 30, 2020, at which time a formal bid process will have awarded a new contract to provide these services.

These emergency responses are in accordance with the Utility's directive from the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) to maintain an operable sewage treatment facility within permitted limits and to maintain the Utilities' commitment to the citizens of Washoe County to provide a safe environment. Through continued efforts of Washoe County Utilities staff, the treatment plant has remained in compliance with NDEP requirements associated with the existing discharge permit.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On April 9, 2019 - The Board of County Commissioners (Board) authorized Assistant County Manager, Dave Solaro, to enter into all necessary emergency agreements and construction contracts for the continued development and implementation of the 2019 mitigation and response measures associated with the Lemmon Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant for access road and berm improvements [not to exceed \$500,000], and for seepage, bypass, and backup pumping systems associated with the treatment plant and collection system [not to exceed \$150,000], pursuant to NRS 332.112 and 338.011.

June 19, 2018 – The Board approved the use of General Fund Contingency in the amount of [\$1,746,058.19] to cover previously approved unbudgeted expenditures for Fiscal Year 2018; approve cross function appropriation transfers of [\$512,000] within the General Fund required to move savings from one function to another function so as to bring the budget authority to the level of anticipated actual expenditures required for Fiscal Year 2018; and, direct the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate appropriation transfers prior to June 30, 2018.

December 12, 2017 – The Board acknowledged receipt of an update on the 2017 North Valleys Flood Incident; directed staff to submit Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant applications for the proposed purchase of specific residences located within the Swan Lake FEMA designated floodplain that were impacted by the 2017 presidentially declared February 2017 flood; and approved the transfer of up to \$300,000 as needed from contingency funds to the Capital Improvement Fund for the construction of additional temporary flood barriers in the Swan Lake area.

September 12, 2017 – The Board affirmed the continued flood response activities related to the 2017 January and February floods and directed staff to initiate the development of a flood response plan for North Valleys closed hydro-basins, a flood mitigation plan for North Valleys closed hydro-basins and to pursue the application process for a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant, for the possible purchase of specific residences located within

the Swan Lake floodplain that were impacted by the 2017 presidentially declared February flood.

June 27, 2017 – The Board approved the use of General Fund Contingency funding and the approved of budget appropriation transfers to cover the County's expenses related to the January and February 2017 flood events.

May 23, 2017 – The Board approved gifting general funds to cover the cost of County building permit fees for specific assessor's parcel numbers affected by Swan Lake (and the immediate vicinity) flooding when demonstrated that individual insurance carriers would not cover the cost of County building permit fees.

May 9, 2017 – The Board received an update on the North Valleys flood incident operation.

April 25, 2017 – The Board directed staff to return with a District Attorney opinion regarding the possible methods for gifting general fund money for building permits related to the Lemmon Valley Flood.

March 28, 2017 – Washoe County staff provided an update to the Board on emergency operations related to the February 23, 2017 Declaration of State of Emergency and received approval of actions taken by the County Manager pursuant to emergency powers related to the state of emergency.

March 21, 2017 – Washoe County staff provided an update to the Board on emergency operations related to the February 23, 2017 Declaration of State of Emergency and received approval of actions taken by the County Manager pursuant to emergency powers related to the state of emergency.

March 14, 2017 – The Board ratified a Declaration of a State of Emergency that was declared by the Washoe County Manager on February 23, 2017 and received an update on the related emergency operations for the North Valleys flood response.

BACKGROUND

Washoe County, through its Community Services Department, continues to manage the ongoing effects of the 2017 North Valleys Flood incident, including maintaining the existing temporary flood barriers and associated seepage and stormwater pumps. The winter of 2018/2019 proved to be extremely wet again, and in April 2019, Swan Lake reached its highest elevation of 4923.1-feet as a result of the continuous precipitation, exceeding the high-water mark of the 2017 flooding events. Due to the record high water levels, lake water inundation to the submerged conveyance pipes also highlighted the need to temporarily bypass portions of the system, which was experiencing much greater than normal operating flows to the LVWWTP, and to provide a backup redundant means of pumping within the facility should the critical wetwell pump fail due to extreme usage. In April of 2019 an emergency contract with Cashman was authorized to provide sewer bypass and ground dewatering at the Lemmon Valley Wastewater Treatment Plan.

While Swan Lake has experienced significant evaporation and there has been almost no measurable precipitation resulting in decreasing lake levels, the current water levels still

require continued management and operations of the sewer bypass facilities, the LVWWTP dewatering pumping, and the perimeter seepage and stormwater pumping.

FISCAL IMPACT

The 2019 costs for the 2019 Emergency Lemmon Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant Flood Mitigation were approximately \$150,000 for seepage, bypass, and backup pumping. Sufficient funds and budget authority exist in the Utilities Fund (566), Sewer Operations (664900), Rental Equipment (710505) for continued seepage, bypass, and backup pumping. Expenses will post to internal order 2019 Emergency LVWWTP Flood Mitigation (49908), which settles to cost center 664900. Revenues in support of this work are provided from monthly sewer rate charges.

Budget authority for the rental, operation and maintenance of the pumping system around Swan Lake in an amount not to exceed \$350,000 exists in the 2017 N. Valley Flood project (GF140617) in the General Fund (100). This project was set up pursuant to Board direction on June 19, 2018 to cover actual and anticipated expenditures related to ongoing flood response activity.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners authorize purchase orders for emergency agreements and construction contracts for the continued operation of the 2019 mitigation and response measures associated with both the Lemmon Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant for seepage, bypass, and backup pumping systems associated with the treatment plant and collection system [not to exceed \$100,000], and for the continuation of the rental, operation, and maintenance of the pumping system around Swan Lake to mitigate flood and storm waters [not to exceed \$350,000].

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Recommendation to authorize purchase orders for emergency agreements and construction contracts for the continued operation of the 2019 mitigation and response measures associated with both the Lemmon Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant for seepage, bypass, and backup pumping systems associated with the treatment plant and collection system [not to exceed \$100,000], and for the continuation of the rental, operation, and maintenance of the pumping system around Swan Lake to mitigate flood and storm waters [not to exceed \$350,000]."