

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION TO TEMPORARILY REDUCE RECLAIMED WATER USE RATES BY FIFTY-PERCENT FOR THE 2020 IRRIGATION SEASON

WHEREAS, it is a Washoe County Strategic Objective to provide effective stewardship of our community resources based on its ability to deliver quality services efficiently. This objective can be obtained by identifying and implementing actions that will be able to continue to increase quality and service levels for reclaimed water customers; and

WHEREAS, the County seeks to continue its commitment to increase customers' ability to effectively manage their use of reclaim water by providing an opportunity to significantly utilize additional quantities of reclaimed water for the benefit of landscaping without having a negative financial impact via a resolution to temporarily reduce reclaimed water irrigation service rates by fifty-percent for the 2020 Irrigation Season, ending in December 2020; and

WHEREAS, Washoe County Ordinance No. 1535 has established a schedule of rates and charges in Article 4 for reclaimed water irrigation services and Article 1.6 provides for temporarily suspending or modifying portions of the provisions of this ordinance for special circumstances for a defined period of time; and

WHEREAS, to continue Washoe's commitment to enhance reclaim water quality for the benefit of other things but including landscaping in the South Truckee Meadows, the County has performed studies of how reclaimed water interacts with the native soils which has a direct influence on the growth rates of certain landscaping; and

WHEREAS, the preliminary recommendations of this study, dated June 4th, 2018, have indicated that beneficial effects on plant health and soil quality are achieved through periodic increased use or "flushing" of the soils; and

WHEREAS, the County continues its commitment to encourage customers in managing their reclaimed water usage for landscaping most effectively and therefore the County is proposing to retroactively reduce reclaimed water irrigation rates by fifty-percent for the 2020 Irrigation Season through December 2020; and

WHEREAS, Washoe County is committed to advancing the use of reclaimed water for irrigation and construction water purposes, thereby preserving potable water for higher and better uses; and

WHEREAS, the County has sufficient cash reserves in Utility Fund 566 to offset any potential loss of revenue from these temporarily reduced rates and now; therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Washoe County to support the temporary reduction of reclaimed water rates by fifty-percent for the 2020 Irrigation Season through December 2020, and authorize staff to make the billing adjustments.

This resolution is effective on passage and approval.

Adopted this 25th day of August, 2020 by the following vote:

Ayes: _____

Nays: _____

Absent: _____

Abstain: _____

Chair,
Washoe County Commission

Attest:

Washoe County Clerk