



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT

**BOARD MEETING DATE: September 22, 2020**

**DATE:** Thursday, September 17, 2020

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Dana Searcy, Special Projects Manager, Office of the County Manager  
(775) 328-2720, [DSearcy@washoecounty.us](mailto:DSearcy@washoecounty.us)

**THROUGH:** Dave Solaro, Assistant County Manager

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to accept the Community Foundation of Western Nevada Truckee River Fund grant in the amount of [\$179,932, with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$77,650] from October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021 to improve Truckee River water quality by reducing the amount of pollution in the River as a result of encampments along and near the Truckee River with the eventual goal of drastically reducing the number of people camping along the River and providing those vulnerable populations with resources; authorize the County Manager [Eric Brown] to execute grant documents and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts)

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### **SUMMARY**

This item recommends acceptance of a Truckee River Fund grant in the amount of \$179,932, with a County match of \$77,650 from the Community Foundation of Western Nevada. The funding would be used to improve Truckee River water quality by reducing the amount of pollution in the River as a result of encampments along and near the Truckee River with the eventual goal of drastically reducing the number of people camping along the River and providing those vulnerable populations with resources. The project is a partnership between the Washoe County Built for Zero team, local non-profits and government partners and a consists of four components:

1. Establishing an outreach team to build relationships and collect basic information on unsheltered individuals living within 0.75 miles of the Truckee River.
2. Establishing and maintaining a By-Name List (BNL) of unsheltered individuals living within 0.75 miles of the Truckee River.
3. Empowering unsheltered individuals to participate in clean-ups along the River to reduce waste, becoming River Stewards.
4. Installing sharps containers and weekly pick up and disposal of the contents.

**Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:** Vulnerable Populations

**AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_**

## **PREVIOUS ACTION**

No previous action.

## **BACKGROUND**

The goal of the Washoe County project is to improve Truckee River water quality by reducing the amount of pollution in the River as a result of encampments along and near the Truckee River with the eventual goal of drastically reducing the number of people camping along the River and providing those vulnerable populations with resources. Encampments result in the production of human waste, trash, medical waste and sharps (devices with sharp points or edges which are often also biohazards) being disposed in or near the Truckee River, instead of in an appropriate fashion that would keep waste out of the Truckee River. By creating relationships with unsheltered individuals, empowering them to participate in river-clean ups, and engaging them with the goal of moving into housing, the utilization of encampments along the Truckee River will be diminished.

The project, in partnership with established local non-profit and government partners, will create a database of unsheltered individuals to better connect them to housing resources, with the eventual goal of drastically reducing the number of people camping along the River. Additionally, the project's River Stewards Program will work directly with unsheltered individuals to clean up areas along the Truckee River during regularly scheduled river clean-ups. Finally, three sharps collection receptacles will be placed along the river to encourage safe, non-polluting disposal of these items.

By coupling river clean-ups with better data collection and a safe way to dispose of sharps, Washoe County will be addressing multiple challenges affecting water quality and will lead to the eventual decrease of encampments along the River as unsheltered individuals are connected to housing resources.

## **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** River Clean Up and Homeless Encampment Data Project

**Scope of the Project:** The project is a partnership between the Washoe County Built for Zero team, local non-profits and government partners and a consists of four components:

1. Establishing an outreach team to build relationships and collect basic information on unsheltered individuals living within 0.75 miles of the Truckee River.
2. Establishing and maintaining a By-Name List (BNL) of unsheltered individuals living within 0.75 miles of the Truckee River.
3. Empowering unsheltered individuals to participate in clean-ups along the River to reduce waste, becoming River Stewards.

4. Installing sharps containers and weekly pick up and disposal of the contents.

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** The grant will benefit our region through improved Truckee River water quality by reducing the amount of pollution in the River as a result of encampments along and near the Truckee River with the eventual goal of drastically reducing the number of people camping along the River and providing those vulnerable populations with resources.

**On-Going Program Support:** This grant opportunity is for specific deliverables to help with the initial lift of our Built For Zero work. This is a pilot program and funding would need to be identified if there are ongoing needs.

**Award Amount:** \$179,932.00

**Grant Period:** October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021

**Funding Source:** Community Foundation of Western Nevada, Truckee River Fund

**Pass Through Entity:** N/A

**CFDA Number:** N/A

**Grant ID Number:** TBD

**Match Amount and Type:** A Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$77,650 consisting of staff time, volunteer labor and golf cart use.

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:**

Washoe County will contract for the River Clean Up and Homeless Encampment Data Project with the Karma Box Project in the amount of \$152,169.60 and will contract for sharps collection services.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the board accept this grant award, the FY21 Special Projects adopted budget will be increased by \$179,932.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object	G/L Account	Amount
<b>Revenue:</b>		
IO 29013	433310 – Local Govt Grant	\$179,932.00
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
IO 29013	710100 – Prof Services	\$169,932.00
IO 29013	710300 – Operating Supplies	\$10,000.00

There is a \$77,650 cash/in-kind match associated with this grant which includes in-kind staff time, volunteer labor and golf cart use.

The grant funds will be drawn on a reimbursement basis.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept the Community Foundation of Western Nevada Truckee River Fund grant in the amount of [\$179,932, with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$77,650] from October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021 to improve Truckee River water quality by reducing the amount of pollution in the River as a result of encampments along and near the Truckee River with the eventual goal of drastically reducing the number of people camping along the River and providing those vulnerable populations with resources; authorize the County Manager [Eric Brown] to execute grant documents and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

*“move to accept the Community Foundation of Western Nevada Truckee River Fund grant in the amount of [\$179,932, with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$77,650] from October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021 to improve Truckee River water quality by reducing the amount of pollution in the River as a result of encampments along and near the Truckee River with the eventual goal of drastically reducing the number of people camping along the River and providing those vulnerable populations with resources; authorize the County Manager [Eric Brown] to execute grant documents and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.*