



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 27, 2020

DATE: September 21, 2020

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

Dave Solaro, Arch., P.E., Assistant County Manager
Community Services Department, 328-3600, dsolaro@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: Recommendation to: 1) accept the Community Foundation of Western Nevada "Truckee River Fund #240-Truckee River Parks and Open Space Weed Management and Revegetation" grant [in the amount of \$45,000 with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$15,000]; and 2) approve the Grant Award Letter with a grant period from issuance of the notice to proceed through July 31, 2022; and 3) authorize the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to sign the Grant Award Letter and any subsequent documents related to the grant on behalf of the County; and 4) direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

This item recommends acceptance of a Truckee River Fund grant in the amount of \$45,000, with a County match of \$15,000 from the Community Foundation of Western Nevada awarded on September 18, 2020. The funding would be used to remove noxious weeds and re-establish native vegetation in Washoe County park and open space areas along the Truckee River and its tributaries. The project includes weed inventory, GIS mapping, chemical and mechanical treatments, re-vegetation, and monitoring.

County Priority/Goal supported by this item: Stewardship of our community.

PREVIOUS ACTION

April 23, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners approved the Community Foundation of Western Nevada Truckee River Fund #220-Weed Treatment and Revegetation Project along the Truckee River Grant [in the amount of \$45,000 with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$17,800] and approved the Grant Award Letter with a grant period from April 23, 2019 through June 30, 2020; and authorized the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to sign the Grant Award Letter and any subsequent documents related to the grant on behalf of the County; and directed the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

BACKGROUND

Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space (Parks) does not currently have any dedicated funding in the budget to address noxious weed issues in park and open space areas. Parks relies on grant funding and volunteer efforts to meet State requirements to control noxious weeds under Nevada Revised Statute 555.130. A Truckee River Fund Grant in the amount of \$45,000 was accepted in April 2019 to fund weed inventory, weed treatment, and revegetation in the Truckee River corridor through 2020. Parks would like to continue with future noxious weed treatments and revegetation to improve fish and wildlife habitat, enhance recreational opportunities, improve water quality through soil stabilization, reduce fire hazard, and increase the visual quality of park and open space areas.

This funding would be used to remove noxious and invasive weeds and re-establish native vegetation in Washoe County park and open space areas along the Truckee River corridor. Priority treatment areas identified for 2021-2022 include Crystal Peak Park, Riverbend Open Space, Mogul Park, Canepa Ranch Open Space, Carcione Open Space, Mayberry Park, Ambrose Park, Dorostkar Park, Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park, Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Anderson Park, Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, and Lockwood Park. Project implementation would include weed inventory, GIS mapping and reporting, chemical and mechanical treatments, re-vegetation, and monitoring. A combination of Washoe County staff time, contracts, and volunteer efforts would be used to implement the project.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Washoe County Parks -Truckee River Parks and Open Space Weed Management and Revegetation

Scope of the Project: Conduct weed inventory, GIS mapping, chemical and mechanical treatments, re-vegetation, and monitoring in park and open space areas.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: Implementation of the project would improve fish and wildlife habitat, enhance recreational opportunities, improve water quality through soil stabilization, reduce fire hazard, and increase the visual quality of parks and open space areas.

On-Going Program Support: Parks will continue to seek weed management funding through future year Truckee River Fund grant requests and other potential funding sources identified through the Washoe-Storey Cooperative Weed Management Area group. Washoe County Parks will also continue to work with partners including the Nevada Land Trust, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, Nevada Department of Agriculture, Nevada Division of Forestry, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife to pursue and leverage funding sources for weed treatments as they become available.

Award Amount: \$45,000

Grant Period: Issuance of notice to proceed through July 31, 2022

Funding Source: Community Foundation of Western Nevada

Pass Through Entity: N/A

CFDA Number: N/A

Grant ID Number: TRF #240

Match Amount and Type: \$15,000 total match (\$8,000 cash match through staff time and \$7,000 in-kind match through volunteer hours).

Sub-Awards and Contracts: Contracts will likely be awarded to implement portions of the project including weed inventory and chemical/mechanical treatments. All contracts and supply purchases will follow Washoe County procurement guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY21 budget will be increased by \$45,000 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object	G/L Account	Amount
Increase Revenue IN29014	484195-Non-Governmental Grants	\$45,000
Increase Expense IN29014	710200-Service Contracts	\$45,000

There is a \$15,000 cash/in-kind match associated with this grant which includes \$8,000 of staff time and \$7,000 in volunteer hours for planting/seeding projects.

The grant funds will be drawn on a reimbursement basis.

No indirect cost is included in this grant.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners: 1) accept the Community Foundation of Western Nevada “Truckee River Fund #240-Truckee River Parks and Open Space Weed Management and Revegetation” grant [in the amount of \$45,000 with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$15,000]; and 2) approve the Grant Award Letter with a grant period from issuance of the notice to proceed through July 31, 2022; and 3) authorize the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to sign the Grant Award Letter and any subsequent documents related to the grant on behalf of the County; and 4) 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: 1) accept the Community Foundation of Western Nevada "Truckee River Fund #240-Truckee River Parks and Open Space Weed Management and Revegetation" grant [in the amount of \$45,000 with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$15,000]; and 2) approve the Grant Award Letter with a grant period from issuance of the notice to proceed through July 31, 2022; and 3) authorize the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to sign the Grant Award Letter and any subsequent documents related to the grant on behalf of the County; and 4) direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.