



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 13, 2021

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 07, 2021

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Dana Searcy, Special Projects Manager  
(775) 328-2720, [dsearcy@washoecounty.us](mailto:dsearcy@washoecounty.us)

**THROUGH:** Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to retroactively accept a grant from Truckee Meadows Water Authority in the amount of [\$200,000, no county match] for a period retroactive from March 10, 2021, until fully expended; approve the use of General Fund Contingency in the amount of [\$250,000] for unbudgeted expenditures for Fiscal Year 2021 and if approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget appropriation transfers and budget amendments and authorize Human Resources to create 1.0 FTE Homeless Services Program Specialist position, as evaluated by the approved Washoe County job evaluation process, to oversee the Safe Camp program. Items support the development of a safe camping location to improve water quality along the Truckee River and expand capacity for those experiencing homelessness. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

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### SUMMARY

This item includes the acceptance of a grant of \$200,000 from Truckee Meadows Water Authority, a recommendation to approve the use of General Fund Contingency in the amount of \$250,000 for unbudgeted expenditures for Fiscal Year 2021 and the establishment of one Homeless Services Program Specialist position to oversee the Safe Camp program. Notice of the grant award was received on March 10, 2021.

Retroactive acceptance is needed as this was the first available meeting to bring this item to the Board of County Commissioners.

All three items are needed to support the immediate implementation of a safe camping location at the Governor's Bowl portion of the Nevada Cares Campus.

**Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:** Vulnerable Populations, Stewardship of our Community

### PREVIOUS ACTION

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

On March 23, 2021, the BCC approved the use of General Fund Contingency in the amount of \$260,000.00 to support Our Place and unbudgeted shelter expenses.

On May 19, 2020, the BCC approved the Fiscal Year 2021 Final Washoe County Budget, which included \$750,000.00 of General Fund Contingency.

On Nov 18, 2020, at a joint meeting with the City of Reno Council and the City of Sparks Council, the BCC voted to acquire and cost share three parcels on East 4th Street for the purpose of expanding shelter capacity in the region to assist people experiencing homelessness.

## **BACKGROUND**

Amid growing community concerns over the public safety, public health and environmental concerns stemming from people living in encampments along the Truckee River, during a Community Homelessness Advisory Board (CHAB) meeting in November 2020, representatives from One Truckee River, a group of public and private partners managing the Truckee River, presented that stormwater sampling and analysis of 11 fixed sites on eight (8) tributaries of the Truckee River showed elevated concentrations of contaminants including elevated levels of E. coli in the Truckee River.

In a subsequent concurrent meeting dated November 18, 2020, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners and the City of Reno and Sparks City Councils voted to acquire and cost share three parcels on East 4<sup>th</sup> Street for the purpose of expanding shelter capacity in the region to assist people experiencing homelessness. The number of individuals experiencing homelessness has increased significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent unemployment spurring housing insecurity, further compound previous community concerns over the public safety, public health and environmental concerns of people living in encampments.

One of the purchased parcels included the Governor's Bowl Park which was discussed to be a safe camping location. The location would serve as a safe space where encampments along the Truckee River could relocate providing access to restrooms, meal service, and will be a more secure location for individuals not wishing to move into shelters.

The purpose for the Safe Camp is to:

- Provide a sanctioned location for people currently living outside that reduces the environmental, public health and safety concerns of unregulated encampments.
- Provide a sanctioned camping location to reduce the negative impacts of unsheltered people being forcibly removed from a location.
- From this stable location, engage safe camp residents in housing focused conversations, service referrals and housing placements.

Notice of the grant award of \$200,000 was received on March 10, 2021. The TMWA grant funding will be used to pay for infrastructure such as electricity, water, restrooms and other amenities at the newly established safe camp.

In order to provide adequate funds to needed to establish the Safe Camp, funds from the contingency fund are needed.

In addition to the contingency fund transfer, approval is being requested to establish one full-time Homeless Services Program Specialist position, effective as of April 13, 2021, to oversee the Safe Camp program. This position has been reviewed through the approved Washoe County job evaluation process, including review by Korn Ferry, and will be included in the FY22 recommended budget for BCC approval.

### **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** Safe Camp at the Nevada Cares Campus

**Scope of the Project:** Development of a safe space where encampments along the Truckee River could relocate providing access to restrooms, meal service, and a more secure location for individuals not wishing to move into shelters.

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** Improved health and safety for our community's unsheltered residents and improved water quality for the Truckee River.

**On-Going Program Support:** Efforts are currently underway to determine the funding needs of the Safe Camp and regional ongoing support.

**Award Amount:** \$200,000

**Grant Period:** March 10, 2021, until fully expended

**Funding Source:** Truckee Meadows Water Authority

**Pass Through Entity:** NA

**CFDA Number:** NA

**Grant ID Number:** NA

**Match Amount and Type:** NA

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:** All contracts will be procured using Washoe County procurement policies and procedures.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

TMWA Grant:

If accepted, the FY21 Capital Improvement Fund (402) budget will need to be amended in the following revenue and expenditure accounts:

<b>Cost Object</b>	<b>G/L Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>
IN29021-TMWA Safe Camp	433310 – Local Govt Grants	\$200,000
IN29021-TMWA Safe Camp	818000 – Transfer to Intrafund	\$200,000
PW920713-Safe Camp Facility	781001 - Land Improvements Capital	\$200,000
PW920713-Safe Camp Facility	818000 – Transfer to Intrafund	(\$200,000)

**Contingency:**

The use of contingency funds in account 189000-820000 and the associated cross-fund, cross-functional budget appropriation transfers are anticipated to bring the budget into alignment with actual and/or anticipated expenditures for Fiscal Year 2021 for the items outlined above. All adjustments are within the existing approved budget for Washoe County and are summarized in the table below.

<b>Fund/Function</b>	<b>Department/ Expenditure</b>	<b>Cost Object(s)/ G-L Account(s)</b>	<b>Budget Change</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Contingency Funds</b>		
General Gov't	Contingency	C189000-820000	(250,000.00)
<b>Capital Improvement Fund (F402)</b>			
Welfare	Safe Camp Project	PW920713-781001	250,000.00
Net Total Contingency			- 0-

**Homeless Services Program Specialist Position:**

The FY21 funding for this position, through June 30, 2021, is included in the adopted FY21 Manager’s Office Budget, Special Projects Division (Fund Center 101-14). FY22 funding for this position will be included in the FY22 recommended budget.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended to retroactively accept a grant from Truckee Meadows Water Authority in the amount of [\$200,000, no county match] for a period retroactive from March 10, 2021, until fully expended; approve the use of General Fund Contingency in the amount of [\$250,000] for unbudgeted expenditures for Fiscal Year 2021 and if approved, direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget appropriation transfers and budget amendments and authorize Human Resources to create 1.0 FTE Homeless Services Program Specialist position, as evaluated by the approved Washoe County job evaluation process, to oversee the Safe Camp program. Items support the development of a safe camping location to improve water quality along the Truckee River and expand capacity for those experiencing homelessness.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *move to retroactively accept a grant from Truckee Meadows Water Authority in the amount of [\$200,000, no county match] for a period retroactive from March 10, 2021, until fully expended; approve the use of General Fund Contingency in the amount of [\$250,000] for unbudgeted expenditures for Fiscal Year 2021 and if approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget appropriation transfers and budget amendments and authorize Human Resources to create 1.0 FTE Homeless Services Program Specialist position, as evaluated by the approved Washoe County job evaluation process, to oversee the Safe Camp program. Items support the development of a safe camping location to improve water quality along the Truckee River and expand capacity for those experiencing homelessness.*



March 10, 2021

Kate Thomas  
Assistant County Manager, Washoe County  
1001 E. Ninth St., Bldg. A, Reno, NV 89512

Subject: Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) Grant Funding for Water Quality Improvement  
Nevada Cares Campus

Dear Ms. Thomas:

Water quality is one of TMWA's highest priorities. Although various sources of contamination affect our water supply, people camping along the Truckee River contribute to the problem. TMWA supports the regional goals of the Nevada Cares Campus, which will provide a safe camping location for many of the currently homeless population. This sanctioned location away from the river will help reduce this potential source of contamination.

TMWA supports the Nevada Cares Campus Project which will help protect and improve water quality for public health and the environment. Please accept this \$200,000 grant from TMWA's approved budget as our contribution toward this regional effort.

TMWA commends the County and their partners for crafting a solution to meet the needs of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Enloe".

John Enloe, P.E.  
Director, Natural Resources