



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 8, 2021

DATE: May 26, 2021

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Alan Jones, P.E., Senior Engineering, Engineering and Capital Projects
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THROUGH: Dwayne Smith, P.E., Division Director, Engineering and Capital Projects
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Washoe County and the City of Reno for municipal wastewater and reclaim water services for the DayBreak Master Planned Community (Daybreak), establishing the rights and responsibilities for the conveyance, treatment and effluent management of wastewater flows from the Daybreak to the Washoe County South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility and delivery of reclaim water to the Daybreak. (Commission District 2.)

SUMMARY

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Washoe County and the City of Reno (Parties) is to provide a general outline of the understanding of the Parties regarding municipal wastewater treatment, effluent management and reclaim water services associated with the proposed Daybreak Master Planned Community (Daybreak) development. The MOU generally identifies the responsibility for the review and conditioning of sanitary sewer infrastructure, assessment and collection of sanitary sewer and reclaim water development and user fees and confirmation for Washoe County to obtain the required permits for work associated with maintenance, repair, and replacement of Washoe County sanitary sewer and reclaimed water infrastructure located within City of Reno rights-of-way. Approximately 2/3rds of the sanitary sewer flows generated from the Daybreak will flow to the Washoe County owned South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (STMWRF) for treatment and effluent management. Exhibit A identifies the general areas of the Daybreak that will flow to the STMWRF. Reclaim water service will be provided from the STMWRF to the entire Daybreak project. This MOU precedes an interlocal agreement between Washoe County and the City of Reno.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Stewardship of our community.

PREVIOUS ACTION

There has been no previous action regarding this item.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

BACKGROUND

The project area was identified in the 2016 South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility Plan Update for wastewater treatment and for possible reclaim water services. The facility plan identifies the necessary infrastructure improvements for the treatment of planned sanitary sewer flows as the area experiences additional growth. New development will be responsible to construct and dedicate the necessary conveyance infrastructure and to pay approved facility connection fees to allow for future treatment plant expansion when needed. Recognizing both opportunities associated with reclaimed water as well as the condition of development that reclaimed water use be maximized within the Development, thereby preserving potable water resources, the Daybreak developer has committed to the use of reclaimed water produced at STMWRF facility.

There is currently an existing agreement between Washoe County and the City of Reno for municipal wastewater conveyance and treatment for specific areas of the South Truckee Meadows where a significant number of City of Reno residents sewer to STMWRF. For those specific areas, that agreement identifies that all on-site sanitary sewer collection pipes are owned, operated, maintained and replaced by the City of Reno. The agreement also identifies that the large diameter (30-inch and larger) interceptors located in City of Reno streets are owned by Washoe County. The area of the Daybreak is not included within the areas specifically identified in the existing agreement.

The agreement also identifies a process for the payment of connection fees and user fees. While this approach may have been adequate when the systems were much smaller as the system has grown many issues have arisen with billing, permitting, and maintenance. Staff of both Washoe County and the City of Reno are continuously challenged keeping the roles and responsibilities aligned with different practices at each organization. This MOU for the Daybreak takes the lessons learned over many years and applies them in a way that will make management of the sewer system, as a whole, easier for Washoe County.

FISCAL IMPACT

All infrastructure costs are the responsibility of the developer and no Washoe County General Fund or Utility Fund monies will be used for the design and construction of sanitary sewer infrastructure associated with this development. As required under Washoe County Ordinance, the developer will pay all required development fees including, but not limited to, sanitary sewer connection fees associated with the proposed development. Subsequently, each residential property owner, business, and/or school will pay monthly user fees as identified in the Sanitary Sewer Rates, Tolls, and Charges Ordinance that are used to operate, maintain, repair and replace sanitary sewer infrastructure.

All offsite sanitary sewer infrastructure including, but not limited to, collection system piping, lift stations(s), and force mains necessary to convey wastewater to the STMWRF for treatment and effluent management will be designed and built by the developer at their sole cost and dedicated to Washoe County to own, operate, maintain, repair and replace. The Developer will be responsible to compensate Washoe County Utility for either the use of existing reclaim water transmission mains or the design and construction

of new reclaim transmission mains as identified in Ordinance or as determined through separate reclaim water service agreement(s).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Washoe County and the City of Reno for municipal wastewater and reclaim water services for the DayBreak Master Planned Community (Daybreak), establishing the rights and responsibilities for the conveyance, treatment and effluent management of wastewater flows from the Daybreak to the Washoe County South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility and delivery of reclaim water to the Daybreak.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Washoe County and the City of Reno for municipal wastewater and reclaim water services for the DayBreak Master Planned Community (Daybreak), establishing the rights and responsibilities for the conveyance, treatment and effluent management of wastewater flows from the Daybreak to the Washoe County South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility and delivery of reclaim water to the Daybreak."