



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 12, 2021

**DATE:** Wednesday, October 06, 2021

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Dana Searcy, Manager, Housing & Homeless Services, Office of the County Manager (775) 328-2720, [dsearcy@washoecounty.gov](mailto:dsearcy@washoecounty.gov)

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

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to accept the Community Foundation of Western Nevada Truckee River Fund grant in the amount of [\$219,164, with a Washoe County in-kind match in the amount of \$77,874.26] retroactive from October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022 to improve water quality by reducing the amount of pollution in the urban Truckee River corridor through outreach, education, data collection, river clean-ups, appropriately placed sharps disposal containers and maintenance/cleaning of Portland Loo bathroom facilities; authorize County Manager Eric Brown to execute grant documents and 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 \$219,164, with a County in-kind match of \$77,874.26 from the Community Foundation of Western Nevada. The goal of the project is to improve water quality by reducing the amount of pollution in the urban Truckee River corridor through outreach, education, data collection, river clean-ups, appropriately placed sharps disposal containers and maintenance/cleaning of Portland Loo bathroom facilities.

Per Board approval of the separate Professional Services Agreement, Karma Box Project will fulfill the frontline work and management associated with the River Stewards Project at a cost not to exceed \$189,134.00. The remaining grant amount of \$30,030 will be applied to weekly sharps disposal pick-ups with contractor Rynocare.

**Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:** Vulnerable Populations: Address Homelessness with a Regional Approach

### PREVIOUS ACTION

On September 22, 2020 the Board of County Commissioners accepted a grant from the Community Foundation of Western Nevada Truckee River Fund in the amount of [\$179,932 with a Washoe County match of \$77,650] and approved the Agreement for

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

Professional Services between Washoe County and Karma Box Project for work related to the Built for Zero initiative, specifically River Clean Up and Homeless Encampment Data Project not to exceed \$152,169.60.

On October 11, 2020 the Board of County Commissioners approved the amended Professional Services Agreement between Washoe County and Karma Box Project for the River Clean Up and Homeless Encampment Data Project, amendments related to liability matters and an advance needed for the project, no change to scope or amount.

## **BACKGROUND**

Controlling the flow of human created trash/waste is critical to protect the health of the Truckee River, especially in the urban Truckee River corridor. Trash generated by unsheltered individuals living along the Truckee has a large impact on the health of the region's water source. The River Stewards Project will work directly with unsheltered individuals to clean up areas along the urban Truckee River corridor. Additionally, this project will continue to add to the database of unsheltered individuals to better connect them to housing resources, with the goal continuing to reduce the number of people camping along the river. Lastly, this project will integrate education into our outreach efforts to teach unsheltered individuals about the importance of keeping the river clean and how to do so through use of the sharps disposal containers, utilizing the Portland Loo bathroom facilities and volunteering to be a River Steward.

Washoe County Housing and Homeless Services Division will provide overall project oversight, administrative support, and grant compliance. A Management Analyst and Data & Policy Specialist will work together to ensure overall program success. Washoe County's proposed frontline partner, Karma Box Project, will manage and execute the program on the ground. By coupling river clean-ups with better data collection, Portland Loo bathroom facilities cleaning, sharps disposal units and outreach/education, Washoe County is implementing a system-thinking strategy to address a variety of root issues that will lead to the decrease of pollution in the urban Truckee River corridor.

Since October 2020, Karma Box Project has successfully piloted and grown the River Stewards Project in coordination with Washoe County. As of June 30, 2021, the program had achieved the following:

- 247 individuals entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- 28 individuals exited from the river in HMIS
- 7,932 bags of trash collected from the river
- 628 volunteer shifts completed
- 189 outreach/educational connections made
- 250 pounds of waste picked up from the sharps disposal units

These numbers illustrate the success that the River Stewards Project has had in its inaugural year of operation. All stakeholders are enthusiastic to continue to build off this momentum in the second year of operation.

## **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** River Stewards Project

**Scope of the Project:** The goal of the project is to improve water quality by reducing the amount of pollution in the urban Truckee River corridor through the following five strategies:

1. Maintain an outreach team to build/strengthen relationships with people experiencing homelessness.
2. Conduct river clean-ups five (5) days per week in the urban Truckee River corridor.
3. Weekly pick-up of sharps disposal container waste.
4. Provide education.
5. Daily cleaning, locking/un-locking around Portland Loo bathroom facilities.

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** Washoe County residents will benefit from improved Truckee River water quality through a multi-faceted approach that addresses root issues of river pollution related to people experiencing homelessness.

**On-Going Program Support:** This round of grant funding will support the second iteration of this pilot program. In this second iteration, we will increase our collaborations and efficiencies to heighten our positive impact on the urban Truckee River corridor. Future phases will be developed after assessment of this next year's progress.

**Award Amount:** \$219,164.00

**Grant Period:** October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022

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

**Pass Through Entity:** N/A

**CFDA Number:** N/A

**Grant ID Number:** TRF #256 – River Stewards Project

**Match Amount and Type:** A Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$77,874.26 consisting of staff time and volunteer hours.

### **Sub-Awards and Contracts:**

Pending acceptance of these funds, Washoe County aims to contract with Karma Box Project in the amount of \$189,134.00 to manage and operate the River Stewards Program.

In addition, pending acceptance of these funds, Washoe County will contract with Rynocare to continue servicing the sharps disposal units in an annual amount of \$30,030.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the Board accept this grant award, the FY22 Special Projects adopted budget will be increased by \$219,164.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<b>Cost Object</b>	<b>G/L Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Revenue:</b>		
IN 29013	433310 – Local Govt Grant	\$219,164.00
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
IN 29013	710100 – Prof Services	\$189,134.00
IN 29013	710200 – Service Contract	30,030.00

There is a \$77,864.26 cash/in-kind match associated with this grant which includes in-kind staff time and volunteer hours.

Per Board approval of the separate Professional Services Agreement, Karma Box Project will fulfill the frontline work and management associated with the River Stewards Project at a cost not to exceed \$189,134.00. The remaining grant amount of \$30,030 will be applied to weekly sharps disposal pick-ups with contractor Rynocare.

**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 [\$219,164, with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of 77,874.26] from October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022 to improve water quality by reducing the amount of pollution in the urban Truckee River corridor through outreach, education, data collection, river clean-ups appropriately placed sharps disposal containers and maintenance/cleaning of Portland Loo bathroom facilities; 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 [\$219,164, with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of 77,874.26] from October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022 to improve water quality by reducing the amount of pollution in the urban Truckee River corridor through outreach, education, data collection, river clean-ups appropriately placed sharps disposal containers and maintenance/cleaning of Portland Loo bathroom facilities; authorize the County Manager [Eric Brown] to execute grant documents and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments.*”