



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 29, 2026

DATE: July 7, 2026

TO: Open Space and Regional Parks Commission

FROM: Faye-Marie Pekar, Park Planner
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THROUGH: Aaron Smith, Operations Division Director
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SUBJECT: Presentation, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve a License Agreement between Washoe County (grantor) and the Truckee River Flood Management Authority (TRFMA) (grantee), for the construction, operation, maintenance, and replacement of a weather monitoring station within a portion of Davis Creek Regional Park (APN 046-041-10), contingent upon a determination by the Nevada Division of State Parks that the proposed License Agreement is consistent with the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) requirements and does not require a conversion of LWCF protected parkland. (Commission District 2) (For Possible Action).

SUMMARY

The Truckee River Flood Management Authority (TRFMA) has requested a permanent, non-exclusive revocable license to access, construct, operate and maintain a weather monitoring station on APN 046-041-10, a portion of Davis Creek Regional Park. The proposed project would replace a weather station destroyed during the 2024 Davis Fire and would support regional flood forecasting, emergency management, and public safety, while also providing localized weather data that may assist Washoe County Regional Parks with snow removal planning and irrigation management. This proposal would locate the station in the southern portion of the park in a forested area. Of the alternative location, this location best satisfies meteorological data collection objectives while minimizing impacts to park facilities, utilities, and visitor use (see Exhibit A).

Davis Creek Regional Park is protected under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program and is subject to Section 6(f) deed restrictions. Accordingly, the proposed license request must be reviewed by the Nevada Division of State Parks to determine whether it is consistent with LWCF requirements. Only if the State determines that the proposed installation complies with Section 6(f) and does not require a conversion of LWCF protected parkland will the License Agreement be brought forward to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration. Staff recommends the Open Space and Regional Park Commission recommend approval of the License Agreement subject to completion of the State's LWCF review and determination.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Economic Impacts: Meet the needs of our growing community.

PREVIOUS ACTION

March 11, 2011 – An Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between Truckee River Flood Management Authority, Washoe County, City of Reno and City of Sparks was executed and recorded as Document #3982600.

BACKGROUND

The Truckee River Flood Management Authority (TRFMA) has submitted a request for a non-exclusive revocable license agreement on APN 046-041-10, a portion of Davis Creek Regional Park for the construction, , operation and maintenance of a weather monitoring station. The proposed station would replace an approximately 25-year-old weather station formerly located near the Davis Creek Park Office on APN 046-051-29, that was destroyed during the 2024 Davis Fire. The former station was originally installed as part of Washoe County's regional Flood Warning System, with ownership and operation subsequently transferred to TRFMA following its formation.

The proposed weather station would collect precipitation and temperature data to support regional flood forecasting, hydrologic modeling, emergency management, and public safety. In addition to its regional flood management function, the weather station has the potential to provide operational benefits to Washoe County Regional Parks by supplying localized weather and precipitation data that may assist park staff with winter snow removal planning and irrigation management at Davis Creek Regional Park.

The installation of the weather station would consist of an approximately seven-foot-tall triangular Rohn tower mounted within a reinforced concrete footing (Exhibit A). Construction would require hand excavation of an area approximately three feet by three feet and two to three feet deep for installation of the tower foundation. Weather monitoring equipment would include precipitation and temperature sensors, solar power equipment, battery storage, and cellular communications equipment capable of transmitting meteorological data approximately every fifteen minutes to TRFMA and Washoe County databases. The proposed location of the weather station provides improved conditions for precipitation measurement by reducing wind effects that previously affected data accuracy.

Davis Creek Regional Park was developed in part with funding from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program and is subject to Section 6(f) deed restrictions that require the property to remain dedicated to public outdoor recreation use. Because the proposed weather station would be located within the established Section 6(f) boundary, the license request must be reviewed by the Nevada Division of State Parks, the State's LWCF administrator, to determine whether the proposed weather station installation is consistent with LWCF requirements or if it would constitute a conversion of protected parkland pursuant to Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act and applicable federal regulations (36 CFR §59.3). Should the State determine that the proposed License Agreement constitutes a conversion requiring replacement parkland or additional federal review, Washoe County does not intend to pursue the license for the weather station due to the staffing, financial, and administrative resources required to complete the conversion process. Under those circumstances,

TRFMA would be required to identify an alternative location outside the LWCF protected area.

Consideration of Alternative Alignments

TRFMA evaluated multiple potential weather station locations within the Davis Creek area before selecting the proposed site. Alternative locations were determined to be less suitable because of topographic conditions, surrounding vegetation, wind exposure, and their reduced ability to produce reliable precipitation measurements. The proposed location best satisfies meteorological data collection objectives while minimizing impacts to park facilities, utilities, and visitor use (see Exhibit A).

If the Nevada Division of State Parks determines that the proposed weather station location is inconsistent with Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) requirements or constitutes a conversion of protected parkland, TRFMA will be required to identify an alternative location outside the LWCF protected property.

Parkland Impacts

The proposed project is expected to result in minimal environmental impacts due to its limited footprint and construction methods. Ground disturbance would be confined to approximately nine square feet associated with installation anticipated to consist primarily of hand excavation, concrete placement, tower installation, equipment mounting, and restoration of disturbed ground.

No impacts to existing park facilities, utilities, irrigation systems, or other infrastructure are anticipated. The proposed weather station will operate independently using solar power and battery storage and will not require utility connections. Construction activities shall avoid existing park improvements, and any damage resulting from construction or future maintenance activities shall be repaired by TRFMA at its expense.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact to the Community Services Department- Regional Parks. The cost and expense of all labor, materials, maintenance and repair of the equipment for the weather station is entirely the responsibility of TRFMA.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission approve a License Agreement between Washoe County (grantor) and the Truckee River Flood Management Authority (TRFMA) (grantee), for the construction, operation, maintenance, and replacement of a weather monitoring station within a portion of Davis Creek Regional Park (APN 046-041-10), contingent upon a determination by the Nevada Division of State Parks that the proposed License Agreement is consistent with the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) requirements and does not require a conversion of LWCF protected parkland.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Commission agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve a License Agreement between Washoe County (grantor) and the Truckee River Flood Management Authority (TRFMA) (grantee), for the construction,

operation, maintenance, and replacement of a weather monitoring station within a portion of Davis Creek Regional Park (APN 046-041-10), contingent upon a determination by the Nevada Division of State Parks that the proposed License Agreement is consistent with the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) requirements and does not require a conversion of LWCF protected parkland.”

Exhibits:

Exhibit A – TRFMA Weather Station

Exhibit B – License Agreement