WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service
www.washoecounty.gov

STAFF REPORT
BOARD MEETING DATE March 18, 2025

DATE: February 24, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Dwayne Smith, Division Director, Engineering & Capital Projects Community Services, 775-328-2043, desmith@washocounty.gov

THROUGH: Eric Crump, Director, Community Services Dept., 775-328-3625, ecrump@washoecounty.gov

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve an amendment to an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Washoe County (County), and the City of Reno (Reno), to reimburse Reno for professional engineering services provided by HDR Engineering, in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood map revision/updates for certain areas in the South Truckee Meadows. This amendment to the approved ILA identifies Washoe County's additional, not-to-exceed cost of $56,954.00. [County's total professional services cost is the not-to-exceed amount of $136,297.50]. Community Services. (Commission District 2.). FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Staff from Washoe County (County) and the City of Reno (Reno) became aware that FEMA Region IX was planning the process to update certain flood risk maps within areas of Washoe County. The areas of proposed remapping lie within both the unincorporated County and within the incorporated City. Specifically, the areas are in reaches of White's Creek, Thomas Creek, Dry Creek, and Double Diamond Creek, and include regional streams and waterways that can be impacted by storm and flood events. The County and Reno recognize the benefits of collaborating on a regional approach to oversee FEMA's efforts for the benefit of all current and future residents, business, and others within the impacted areas. To accomplish this, it was agreed that the County and Reno would jointly seek a competent engineering firm to provide professional engineering services necessary as part of the FEMA flood risk map update process.

Staff from both the County and Reno worked together to develop an initial scope of work with HDR Engineering (HDR) to perform the required hydrological and hydraulic assessments, analysis and modeling. The total cost for the original scope of the work was $158,687.00 which was approved by the Reno City Council and subsequently the Board of County Commissioners approved an ILA with the Reno to reimbursement them for

50% of the costs, in an amount not to exceed $79,343.50 (total professional services not to exceed $158,687.00).
After the initial work to update the mapping began, it became clear that a more extensive effort is needed to make the needed modifications to the technical documents for FEMA. Due to the complexity of the model, hydrology, and mapping, the current contract requires extension of time and funding to produce a deliverable for FEMA. The amendment to HDR's professional services agreement is in an amount not to exceed $197,533.00, for a total professional services cost of $356,220.00 (original scope of $158,687.00 plus the amended amount of $197,533.00 for a total of $356,220.00).

Washoe County's share of the current amendment is the not-to-exceed amount of $56,954.00, when added to the original scope, Washoe County's total professional services, not-to-exceed cost is $136,297.50 (approximately 38% of the total professional services cost). Reno plans to present the attached amendment to the Reno City Council in March 2025.

The attached amendment to the original scope of work from HDR will allow for this work to be performed, and comments to be provided to FEMA for incorporation into the updated flood maps. The revisions recommended by staff will ensure that as future development occurs in the watershed, developers and their engineers will be able to accurately update and modify the FEMA flood maps. At the same time, the methodology proposed by staff will rely on methodologies typical of this area that are currently detailed in the Truckee Meadows Regional Drainage Manual. This will help to provide smooth implementation of any future development-driven flood map changes and rely on existing methodologies.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability: Efficient delivery of regional services.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On April 23, 2024, the Board approved an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Washoe County (County), and the City of Reno (Reno), to reimburse the Reno for professional engineering services provided by HDR Engineering, in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood map revision/updates for areas in the South Truckee Meadows. This ILA identifies a 50% cost share of these services between the Washoe County and Reno. [Washoe County's total cost is not to exceed $79,343.50, which is 50% of the total professional services cost of $158,687.00].

BACKGROUND

In coordination with County and Reno staff, FEMA Region IX began the process of updating flood maps for select areas within Reno and unincorporated County (outside of the Truckee River) in 2019. The areas of proposed remapping are limited to reaches of White's Creek, Thomas Creek, Dry Creek, and Double Diamond Creek. Staff reviewed the proposed changes as well as the technical basis for the changes (hydrology and hydraulics). Subsequently, County and Reno staff and HDR approached the FEMA technical team with a request for modifications to the technical approaches to provide the most accurate and defensible flood maps, especially for areas in close proximity to

existing buildings. FEMA stated that due to a lack of funding, it would only be able to include the changes if provided to FEMA as a completed package, along with all the required modeling and documentation. Due to the nature of the proposed remapping, there is a substantial amount of land area where both unincorporated County and the City have similar concerns. Staff determined that this effort of working on modifications to the proposed FEMA flood maps could be done jointly, resulting in reduced effort and costs.

The amended scope of work from HDR (Attachment A to the amended ILA) will allow for this work to be completed and comments to be provided to FEMA for incorporation into the updated flood risk maps. County and Reno staff propose that Reno staff manage the amended agreement with HDR to provide refined modeling and mapping and that the additional work by HDR though a cost share agreement by each agency. The revisions recommended by staff will ensure that as future development occurs in the watershed, developers and their engineers will be able to accurately update and modify the FEMA flood maps. At the same time, the methodology proposed by staff will rely on methodologies typical for this area that are currently detailed in the Truckee Meadows Regional Drainage Manual.

FISCAL IMPACT

Sufficient budget authority for this agreement is available in the FY25 budget in Engineering and Operations Support (105500), Payments to Other Agencies (710400).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners approve an amendment to an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Washoe County (County), and the City of Reno (Reno), to reimburse Reno for professional engineering services provided by HDR Engineering, in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood map revision/updates for certain areas in the South Truckee Meadows. This amendment to the approved ILA identifies Washoe County's additional, not-to-exceed cost of $56,954.00. [County's total professional services cost is the not-to-exceed amount of $136,297.50].

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve an amendment to an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Washoe County (County), and the City of Reno (Reno), to reimburse Reno for professional engineering services provided by HDR Engineering, in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood map revision/updates for certain areas in the South Truckee Meadows. This amendment to the approved ILA identifies Washoe County's additional, not-to-exceed cost of $56,954.00. [County's total professional services cost is the not-to-exceed amount of $136,297.50]."