



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 19, 2025

**DATE:** July 16, 2025

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Brett Simerly, Roads Superintendent  
Community Services Dept., 328-2180, [bsimerly@washoecounty.gov](mailto:bsimerly@washoecounty.gov)

**THROUGH:** Aaron Smith, Division Director, Operations  
Community Services Dept., 328-2182, [aasmith@washoecounty.gov](mailto:aasmith@washoecounty.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to accept a donation and approve a Hold Harmless Agreement for a Caterpillar Grader 130G, serial number 7GB00450, [\$7,500.00 estimated value] from the City of Sparks to Washoe County Community Services Roads Fund in support of gravel road and stormwater drainage ditch maintenance programs in the Truckee Meadows and Incline Village areas [\$1500.00 estimated annual maintenance cost]. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

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### **SUMMARY**

The Community Services Department (CSD) Operations Division requests approval to accept donation of a Caterpillar Grader 130G (Motor Grader), serial number 7GB00450 from City of Sparks to the Washoe County Roads Fund. The City of Sparks is donating a Motor Grader to Washoe County at no cost. The equipment has an estimated value of \$7,500, with ongoing annual ownership costs projected at \$1,500. The Motor Grader will be used primarily for maintaining gravel roads and stormwater drainage ditches in the Truckee Meadows and Incline Village areas. This donation will support the County's ability to maintain current service levels for unpaved road and drainage maintenance. Currently, existing Motor Grader assets are shared across the County, incurring additional transportation and logistical costs. This donation will help reduce those burdens and improve operational flexibility. At times, scheduling conflicts have delayed maintenance work; this additional grader will help ensure timely project completion. Compared to the alternative of renting a Motor Grader—at more than \$3,000 per week—the County is expected to save approximately \$10,500 annually.

**Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:** Fiscal Sustainability, Long-term sustainability.

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

None.

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

## **BACKGROUND**

The donation of a Caterpillar Grader 130G (Motor Grader) from the City of Sparks to Washoe County represents a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing the operational capacity of the Washoe County Roads Fund. This donation aligns with the County's broader objectives to improve infrastructure maintenance and reduce logistical inefficiencies associated with shared equipment. The Motor Grader, valued at approximately \$7,500, will primarily serve unpaved road and stormwater drainage maintenance needs in the Truckee Meadows and Incline Village areas, addressing critical service demands in these regions.

Historically, Washoe County has relied on a limited pool of Motor Grader assets shared across its jurisdiction, which has led to increased transportation costs and scheduling conflicts. These challenges have occasionally delayed maintenance projects, impacting service delivery and operational efficiency. The addition of this donated equipment is expected to mitigate these issues by providing dedicated resources for specific geographic areas, thereby improving project timelines and reducing logistical burdens. Furthermore, the donation eliminates the need for costly equipment rentals, which have historically exceeded \$3,000 per week, resulting in projected annual savings of approximately \$10,500.

From a legal and regulatory perspective, the transfer is governed by Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 277, which permits public agencies to collaborate on shared services and resources. The agreement includes a hold harmless clause, ensuring that Washoe County assumes full ownership and liability for the equipment in its "as-is" condition. This clause indemnifies the City of Sparks from any damages or claims arising from the use or possession of the Motor Grader, in compliance with NRS Chapter 41 liability limitations. Additionally, the agreement stipulates that modifications or amendments must be executed in writing and approved by both parties, ensuring transparency and adherence to legal standards.

The donation also aligns with Washoe County's strategic planning objectives, particularly those focused on infrastructure resilience and operational efficiency. By enhancing the County's ability to maintain unpaved roads and drainage systems, the Motor Grader supports broader goals of community safety, accessibility, and environmental sustainability. These improvements are consistent with the County's commitment to maintaining high service levels while optimizing resource allocation.

The donated Caterpillar Grader 130G represents a cost-effective and operationally beneficial solution to address infrastructure maintenance challenges within Washoe County. The legal framework governing the transfer ensures compliance with state statutes, while the strategic alignment with County objectives underscores the importance of this initiative in supporting community needs and enhancing service delivery.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The equipment, valued at approximately \$7,500, is being donated at no cost to the County. The ongoing ownership costs for the Motor Grader is estimated at \$1,500 annually, which includes maintenance and operational expenses. These costs will be absorbed within the existing Roads Fund budget. There is sufficient budget authority in FY26 in the Roads Fund (216), Roads Maintenance (216002), Equipment Capital (781004).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept a donation and approve a Hold Harmless Agreement for a Caterpillar Grader 130G, serial number 7GB00450, [\$7,500.00 estimated value] from the City of Sparks to Washoe County Community Services Roads Fund in support of gravel road and stormwater drainage ditch maintenance programs in the Truckee Meadows and Incline Village areas [\$1500.00 estimated annual maintenance cost].

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to accept a donation and approve a Hold Harmless Agreement for a Caterpillar Grader 130G, serial number 7GB00450, [\$7,500.00 estimated value] from the City of Sparks to Washoe County Community Services Roads Fund in support of gravel road and stormwater drainage ditch maintenance programs in the Truckee Meadows and Incline Village areas [\$1500.00 estimated annual maintenance cost]."