



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 28, 2026

DATE: March 16, 2026

TO: Board of County Commissioners

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

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

SUBJECT: Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to provide a non-binding recommendation to the Nevada State Engineer as identified in Nevada Revised Statute 533.363, for the State of Nevada's possible approval of Application numbers 94812 for Permission to Change Point of Diversion and Place of Use of the Public Waters of the State of Nevada., and Applications 94406 and 94407 for permission to appropriate the Public Waters of the State of California and use the water in the State of Nevada. Application 94812, submitted by Truckee Meadows Water Authority, proposes to change the point of diversion and place of use of 81.51 acre-feet of water rights in the Truckee Canyon Hydrographic Basin (via the Truckee River) to a point of diversion and place of use within Washoe County and Storey County for municipal use. The water right was previously diverted from the Truckee Canyon Hydrographic Basin and placed to use within Washoe County. Community Services. Applications 94406 and 94407, submitted by Sierra Pacific Industries, propose to divert 5,600 acre-feet of water rights via underground sources within Lassen County, California, and place the water to use in Dry Valley Hydrographic Basin within Washoe County for irrigation use. Community Services. (Commission District 4.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

On January 21, 2026, the Nevada State Engineer's Office sent notification to the Washoe County Board of Commissioners (Board) and the Pershing County Board of Commissioners that Application number 94812 has been submitted to propose changes to the point of diversion and place of use of 81.51 acre-feet of water rights from the Truckee River within the Truckee Canyon Hydrographic Basin, previously diverted and placed to use in Washoe County, to points of diversion in Washoe County and place of use within Washoe County. The proposed place of use of these applications is identified as the "Truckee Meadows Water Authority's current service area," supporting Permit 77478 on

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file with the Nevada State Engineer's Office for municipal water service in the Truckee Meadows area.

On February 17, 2026, the Nevada State Engineer's Office sent notification to the Board that Applications 94406 and 94407 have been submitted to divert 5,600 acre-feet of water rights from underground sources in Lassen County, California, with proposed place of use of both applications in the Dry Valley Hydrographic Basin in Washoe County, Nevada.

Pursuant to NRS 533.363, the Board is required to consider the application request at a duly noticed public meeting and make a non-binding recommendation to the State Engineer's Office to approve or to deny the applications. The recommendation by the Board is not binding on the State Engineer in consideration for possible approval.

Based on the review of the applications as provided, staff recommends the Board provide a non-binding recommendation to the State of Nevada Engineer to approve these applications as identified above.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Economic Impacts: Support a thriving community.

PREVIOUS ACTION

April 14, 2026 – Applications 92313 and 92314, submitted by Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Application 94270, submitted by Washoe County, and Application 94300, submitted by Robert and Elizabeth Coombs, propose to change the points of diversion and places of use of 159.14 acre-feet of water rights in the Truckee Canyon Hydrographic Basin (via the Truckee River) to a point of diversion and places of use within Washoe County and Storey County for municipal use. The water right was previously diverted from the Truckee Canyon Hydrographic Basin and placed to use within Washoe County Community Services. Applications 93730 and 93731, submitted by Truckee Meadows Water Authority, propose to change the points of diversion of 366.16 acre-feet of water rights in Spanish Springs Hydrographic Basin (via underground sources) while the place of use remains within Washoe County and Storey County for municipal use. The water right was previously diverted from Spanish Springs Hydrographic Basin. Application 94213, submitted by Truckee Meadows Water Authority, proposes to change the point of diversion and place of use of 321.49 acre-feet of water rights in the Truckee Canyon Hydrographic Basin (via an underground source) to a point of diversion within Washoe County and a place of use within Washoe County and Storey County for municipal use. The water right was previously diverted from the Truckee Canyon Hydrographic Basin and placed to use within Washoe County.

February 10, 2026 – The Board recommended the approval of temporary Water Right Application 94669T to the Nevada State Engineer, proposing to change the point of diversion and place of use of 159.14 acre-feet of water rights from an underground source previously diverted and placed to use in Washoe County to a point of diversion and place of use within Pershing County.

August 20, 2024 - The Board recommended the approval of Water Right Application 93515 to the Nevada State Engineer, proposing to change the point of diversion and place

of use of 550.00 acre-feet of water rights from an underground source previously diverted and placed to use in Pershing County to a point of diversion and place of use within Washoe County.

May 28, 2024 - The Board recommended the approval of Water Right Applications 93364, 93365, and 93366 to the Nevada State Engineer, proposing to change the points of diversion, places of use, and manners of use of 10.0818 acre-feet of water rights from underground sources previously diverted and placed to use in Washoe County to points of diversion and places of use within Storey County.

November 30, 2018 – The Board recommended the approval of Water Right Applications 88248 and 88249 to the Nevada State Engineer, proposing to change the points of diversion and places of use of 6.00 acre-feet of water rights from Lake Tahoe (via Glenbrook Creek) previously diverted and placed to use in Douglas County to points of diversion and places of use within Washoe County.

October 23, 2018 – The Board recommended the approval of Water Right Applications 86608, 86609 and 87616 to the Nevada State Engineer, proposing to change the points of diversion and places of use of underground water rights previously diverted and placed to use in Pershing County to points of diversion and places of use within Washoe County.

August 23, 2016 – The Board recommended the conditional approval of Water Rights Application 86233 to the Nevada State Engineer, proposing to export 7,000 acre-feet of ground water from Mud Meadows hydrographic basin in northern Pershing County to Lyon, Storey and Washoe Counties for use at the Reno Tahoe Industrial Center.

February 23, 2016 – The Board recommended the approval of Water Rights Application 85348 to the Nevada State Engineer, proposing to change the point of diversion and place use of 4.00 acre-feet of ground water rights from Douglas County to Washoe County in the Tahoe Basin.

November 12, 2013 – The Board recommended approval of Water Rights Applications 83083 through 83086 to the Nevada State Engineer, proposing to change the point of diversion and place and manner of use of 89.736 acre-feet of ground water rights from Washoe County to Storey County.

The Board has made numerous recommendations to the State Engineer to approve or deny water rights applications for intra-basin/inter-County transfers of water in various locations within Washoe County.

BACKGROUND

Application number 94812 was submitted by Truckee Meadows Water Authority to the Nevada State Engineer on November 6, 2025, to propose changes to the point of diversion and place of use of 81.51 acre-feet of water rights from the Truckee River within the Truckee Canyon Hydrographic Basin, previously diverted and placed to use in Washoe County, to points of diversion in Washoe County and place of use within Washoe County and Storey County. The proposed place of use of these applications is identified as the “Truckee Meadows Water Authority’s current service area,” which is located within Washoe County and Storey County as depicted on the map for Permit 77478 on file with the Nevada State Engineer’s Office.

Application numbers 94406 and 94407 were submitted by Sierra Pacific Industries to the Nevada State Engineer on May 19, 2025, to divert 5,600 acre-feet of water rights from underground sources in Lassen County with proposed place of use of both applications in the Dry Valley Hydrographic Basin in Washoe County.

Nevada Revised Statute 533.363 requires that the State Engineer notify the County Commissioners of the county of origin and the county of destination and addresses the responsibilities of the Board of County Commissioners in this matter.

NRS 533.363 State Engineer to notify county commissioners of application to use water in county other than that in which it is appropriated or currently diverted or used.

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, if water for which a permit is requested is to be used in a county other than that county in which it is to be appropriated, or is to be diverted from or used in a different county than that in which it is currently being diverted or used, then the State Engineer shall give notice of the receipt of the request for the permit to:

(a) The board of county commissioners of the county in which the water for which the permit is requested will be appropriated or is currently being diverted or used; and

(b) The board of county commissioners of the county in which the water will be diverted or used.

2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply:

(a) To an environmental permit or a temporary permit issued pursuant to [NRS 533.436](#) or [533.504](#).

(b) If:

(1) The water is to be appropriated and used; or

(2) Both the current and requested place of diversion or use of the water are,

↳ within a single, contiguous parcel of real property.

3. A person who requests a permit to which the provisions of subsection 1 apply shall submit to each appropriate board of county commissioners a copy of the application and any information relevant to the request.

4. Each board of county commissioners which is notified of a request for a permit pursuant to this section shall consider the request at the next regular or special meeting of the board held not earlier than 3 weeks after the notice is received. The board shall provide public notice of the meeting for 3 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in its county. The notice must state the time, place and purpose of the meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting the board may recommend a course of action to the State Engineer, but the recommendation is not binding on the State Engineer.

(Added to NRS by [1981, 782](#); A [1991, 758](#); [2011, 1565](#); [2013, 498, 3679](#))

Notice of this matter has been published in the Reno Gazette Journal, for three consecutive weeks on April 10, 2026, April 17, 2026 and April 24, 2026.

Upon consideration, the Board may recommend a course of action to the State Engineer, but the recommendation is not binding on the State Engineer.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners to provide a non-binding recommendation to the Nevada State Engineer as identified in Nevada Revised Statute 533.363, for the State of Nevada's possible approval of Application numbers 94812 for Permission to Change Point of Diversion and Place of Use of the Public Waters of the State of Nevada., and Applications 94406 and 94407 for permission to appropriate the Public Waters of the State of California and use the water in the State of Nevada. Application 94812, submitted by Truckee Meadows Water Authority, proposes to change the point of diversion and place of use of 81.51 acre-feet of water rights in the Truckee

Canyon Hydrographic Basin (via the Truckee River) to a point of diversion and place of use within Washoe County and Storey County for municipal use. The water right was previously diverted from the Truckee Canyon Hydrographic Basin and placed to use within Washoe County. Community Services. Applications 94406 and 94407, submitted by Sierra Pacific Industries, propose to divert 5,600 acre-feet of water rights via underground sources within Lassen County, California, and place the water to use in Dry Valley Hydrographic Basin within Washoe County for irrigation use.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to provide a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to provide a non-binding recommendation to the Nevada State Engineer as identified in Nevada Revised Statute 533.363, for the State of Nevada's possible approval of Application numbers 94812 for Permission to Change Point of Diversion and Place of Use of the Public Waters of the State of Nevada., and Applications 94406 and 94407 for permission to appropriate the Public Waters of the State of California and use the water in the State of Nevada. Application 94812, submitted by Truckee Meadows Water Authority, proposes to change the point of diversion and place of use of 81.51 acre-feet of water rights in the Truckee Canyon Hydrographic Basin (via the Truckee River) to a point of diversion and place of use within Washoe County and Storey County for municipal use. The water right was previously diverted from the Truckee Canyon Hydrographic Basin and placed to use within Washoe County. Community Services. Applications 94406 and 94407, submitted by Sierra Pacific Industries, propose to divert 5,600 acre-feet of water rights via underground sources within Lassen County, California, and place the water to use in Dry Valley Hydrographic Basin within Washoe County for irrigation use."