



Office of the County Manager

Federal Legislative Activity Report – 1st Quarter 2024

As specified in the *Washoe County Federal Legislative Principles and Lobbying Practices for the 118th United States Congress* approved by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners on December 12, 2023, the following is a summary of the federal legislative activities of Washoe County staff, contract lobbyists and elected officials during the first quarter of calendar year 2024.

January 2024

- Washoe County staff and contract lobbyists (Porter Group) initiated Federal Fiscal Year 2025 Congressional appropriations request process, identifying priorities from last appropriations cycle which did not receive approval for funding and new projects in keeping with the priorities identified by the Board of County Commissioners at the October 24, 2023, Strategic Planning Workshop. The following projects were identified for possible presentation to our Congressional Delegation:
 - West Hills Facility Initial 24 Months Operating Expenses
 - Emergency Foster Bed Capacity Expansion
 - Hidden Valley Regional Park Reclaim Water Enhancements
 - Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Safety Improvements – County Road 34 and County Road 447
 - Swan Lake Wetlands Restoration and Flood Mitigation
 - Lake Tahoe Water Clarity Project, Upper Third and Rosewood Creeks; this project was identified for submission by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- The County Manager submitted a letter on behalf of Washoe County to Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen expressing Washoe County's support for legislation extending funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
- The County Manager submitted letter to on behalf of Washoe County Senator Cortez Masto expressing Washoe County's support for her introduction of the *Federal Home Loan Banks' Mission Implementation Act* (S. 1684)
- Washoe County staff and contract lobbyist (Porter Group) monitored introduction of Senator Rosen's *Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act* (S.3953)

February 2024

- Chair Hill, Commissioner Garcia, and Government Affairs Liaison Cadence Matijevich attended 2024 National Association of Counties Legislative Conference in Washington D.C.
- Chair Hill, Commissioner Garcia, Washoe County staff, and contract lobbyist (Porter Group) met with staff from Senator Cortez Masto's office in Washington D.C. and received feedback regarding appropriations requests for Federal Fiscal Year 2025. Discussed items of interest to Washoe County, including extension of the ACP, and the *Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act*



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- Chair Hill, Commissioner Garcia, Washoe County staff, and contract lobbyist (Porter Group) met with staff from Senator Rosen’s office in Washington D.C. and received feedback regarding appropriations requests for Federal Fiscal Year 2025. Discussed items of interest to Washoe County, including extension of the ACP, and the *Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act*
- Chair Hill, Commissioner Garcia, Washoe County staff, and contract lobbyist (Porter Group) met with Congressman Amodei in Washington D.C. and received feedback regarding appropriations requests for Federal Fiscal Year 2025. Discussed items of general interest to Washoe County, including lands bills and Swan Lake.
- Washoe County staff and contract lobbyist (Porter Group) convened a virtual meeting between Office of the Secretary of State, staff and contract lobbyist from the City of Reno, and staff from the City of Sparks to discuss strategy for communicating opposition to the United States Postal Service (USPS) findings indicating intention to move outgoing mail processing operations out of the Reno Processing and Distribution Center to Sacramento, CA.
- In accordance with direction provided by the Board of County Commissioners on February 27, 2024, a letter under Chair Hill’s signature was submitted to Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen and Congressman Amodei expressing Washoe County’s opposition to the United States Postal Service (USPS) findings indicating intention to move outgoing mail processing operations out of the Reno Processing and Distribution Center (PDC) to Sacramento, CA.
- In accordance with direction provided by the Board of County Commissioners on February 27, 2024, submitted letter under Chair Hill’s signature to Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen and Congressman Amodei expressing Washoe County’s opposition to the United States Postal Service (USPS) findings indicating intention to move outgoing mail processing operations out of the Reno Processing and Distribution Center (PDC) to Sacramento, CA.
- In accordance with direction provided by the Board of County Commissioners on February 27, 2024, Washoe County staff submitted comment to the USPS detailing Washoe County’s opposition to the USPS findings indicating intention to move outgoing mail processing operations out of the Reno PDC to Sacramento, CA.
- Washoe County staff and contract lobbyist (Porter Group) participated in a virtual meeting with staff from Senator Cortez Masto’s office and staff from the Office of the Secretary of State to provide additional information to the Senator’s office regarding the USPS’s proposal to relocate certain operations from Reno PDC to Sacramento.
- Washoe County staff participated in a virtual meeting with staff from Senator Cortez Masto’s office regarding the *Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act*.



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March 2024

- The County Manager, Washoe County staff and contract lobbyist (Porter Group) participated in phone call with Congressman Amodei regarding the USPS's proposal to relocate certain operations from Reno PDC to Sacramento. Discussed Washoe County inviting representative(s) from USPS to provide an update to the Washoe County Board of Commissioners (BCC) at an upcoming Board meeting.
- Washoe County staff and contract lobbyist (Porter Group) invited USPS to provide a presentation to BCC at the March 19 or March 26 BCC meeting. USPS representatives declined to provide a presentation at a public meeting but did indicate a willingness to meet with the Board Chair, Vice Chair and County Manager. Despite numerous requests to USPS representatives to identify a date and time for such a meeting, they have declined to provide availability. Provided ongoing updates to Congressman Amodei's office regarding these communications with USPS.
- Based upon feedback received from the members of our Congressional Delegation, Washoe County staff and contract lobbyist (Porter Group) finalized and submitted requests for appropriations for the following projects for the Federal Fiscal Year 2025 cycle:
 - West Hills Facility Initial 24 Months Operating Expenses \$3,000,000
Submitted to Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen
 - Emergency Foster Bed Capacity Expansion \$5,847,055
Submitted to Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen
 - Hidden Valley Regional Park Reclaim Water Enhancements \$2,250,000
Submitted to Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen, and to Congressman Amodei
- The County Manager provided Letters of Support on behalf of Washoe County for the following entities for their submissions for Congressional appropriations for Federal Fiscal Year 2025:
 - Tahoe Regional Planning Agency: Lake Tahoe Water Clarity Project, Upper Third and Rosewood Creeks (if approved, the funds for this project will be provided to Washoe County and the project would be managed by Washoe County)
 - City of Sparks: Pedestrian Improvements in central Sparks; Electric Vehicle Charging stations to be located throughout the city; New cover for a digester at the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility to improve biogas collection
 - Washoe Regional Transportation Commission: Wedekind Road pedestrian improvements, Reno-Sparks Traffic Management Center; Eagle Canyon Drive Safety and Operations Project



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- Chair Hill provided a statement to Senator Rosen's office in support of bipartisan *Reducing Drugs for Seniors Act* (to be introduced jointly by Senators Rosen and Cornyn (R-TX))
- Washoe County staff and contract lobbyist (Porter Group) Communicated with our Congressional Delegation regarding the impact that the ten percent cuts to the Federal Assistance Grants contained within the *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024* (part of the second Federal Fiscal Year 2024 spending package introduced by the House of Representatives on March 21, 2024, and passed by the House and the Senate on March 22, 2024) would have on Washoe County and the State of Nevada. Following discussion with staff from Congressman Amodei's office, submitted a formal request to the Congressman asking that funding for these grants be reinstated in the Federal Fiscal Year 2025 budget to the same levels approved in the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 budget.



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