



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

**BOARD MEETING DATE: April 23, 2024**

**DATE:** April 2, 2024

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Dwayne Smith, Division Director, Engineering & Capital Projects  
Community Services, 775-328-2043, [Desmith@washoecounty.gov](mailto:Desmith@washoecounty.gov)

**THROUGH:** Eric Crump, Director,  
Community Services Dept., 775-328-3625, [ecrump@washoecounty.gov](mailto:ecrump@washoecounty.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve 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 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 project cost of \$158,687.00]. (Commission District 2.)

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### **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 City 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 City worked together to develop a scope of work with HDR Engineering (HDR) to perform the required hydrological and hydraulic assessments, analysis and modeling. The total cost for the scope of the work is \$158,687.00. On February 14, 2024, the Reno City Council approved an agreement with HDR and subsequently approved the attached ILA with Washoe County to allow for reimbursement to Reno for 50% of the costs, in an amount not to exceed \$79,343.50 (total professional services not to exceed \$158,687). This ILA represents efficiency and cost savings associated with a single cooperative effort between the County and Reno.

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

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

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

None

### **BACKGROUND**

In coordination with County and City 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 in order 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 scope of work from HDR (Attachment A to the ILA) will allow for this work to be performed and comments to be provided to FEMA for incorporation into the updated flood risk maps. County and Reno staff propose that City of Reno staff manage an agreement with HDR to provide refined modeling and mapping and that the work by HDR be funded 50/50 by each agency via an ILA for reimbursement. 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 funding for this agreement exists in the FY24 budget in CSD Engineering and Capital Administration (105500), Payments to Other Agencies (710400).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners approve 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 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 project cost of \$158,687.00].

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve 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 project cost of \$158,687.00]."