

Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission

STAFF REPORT

DATE: June 25, 2020

TO: Chairman and Members, Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (“NNWPC”)

FROM: Jim Smitherman, Water Resources Program Manager

SUBJECT: Review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Western Regional Water Commission for approval of a scope of work and funding, not to exceed \$150,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund, for consulting engineering assistance concerning the completion of the Regional Effluent Management Planning Guidance Document Project.

SUMMARY

In March 2018, the NNWPC made a recommendation to the Western Regional Water Commission for approval of a scope of work, and funding in an amount not to exceed \$561,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund (“RWMF”) for the development of a Regional Effluent Management Planning Guidance Document (the “Project”). The WRWC approved and executed an Interlocal Agreement with the University of Nevada, Reno (“UNR”) to have the Nevada Water Innovation Institute provide primary support, i.e., an Associate Research Professor, to develop the document at the direction of the Regional Effluent Management Team (the “Team”).

The Project has progressed over the first two years of the three-year Agreement with four of the eight Project Tasks completed. The Team recently determined that external engineering technical support is necessary to assist in the completion the Project. Staff requested a proposal from Mr. Roy Johnson, Managing Engineer at Brown and Caldwell, who developed the effluent management framework that serves as the basis for the Project. The scoping outline below has been provided to Mr. Johnson. A complete proposal is not available as of the date of this report.

Funding for an agreement with Brown and Caldwell will come from two sources: 1) defunding the UNR Agreement by approximately \$80,000, which will reduce the Associate Research Professor level of effort in fiscal year 2020-2021 to 54 percent of full time, and 2) approximately \$70,000 from the project contingency fund.

BACKGROUND

In December 2014, the NNWPC directed staff to prepare a presentation summarizing wastewater master planning in the region and outlining a scope of work for a wastewater and effluent management master plan update. Working together with the Team, technical staff from the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, Washoe County and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, staff

provided the requested information and materials at the following two NNWPC meetings The Team had been meeting informally since April 2014 to discuss regional effluent management issues.

In February 2015, the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission, (“NNWPC”), approved funding for project coordination services to help the Team develop a framework to be used as the basis of an effluent management strategy focused on the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility and the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility. Mr. Roy Johnson, Managing Engineer at Brown and Caldwell provided project coordination and completed the framework in late 2018 in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, which Mr. Johnson delivered to the NNWPC.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact to the RWMF for this item, if approved, will not exceed \$70,000 in FY 2020-2021. Budget authority is provided in the FY 2020-2021 budget, in Fund Group 766, Fund 7066, Account Number 710100, Professional Services, Cost Object WP310200.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the NNWPC make a recommendation to the Western Regional Water Commission for approval of a scope of work and funding, not to exceed \$150,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund, for consulting engineering assistance concerning the completion of the Regional Effluent Management Planning Guidance Document Project, and execute an agreement with Brown and Caldwell for that purpose.

JS:jp

Regional Effluent Management Planning Guidance Document
Scoping provided to Brown and Caldwell
June 2020

- Brown and Caldwell will work with UNR Associate Research Professor to complete Tasks 5 through 8.
- WRWC will provide existing materials compiled during Tasks 1 through 4.
- Direction will be from the Regional Effluent Management Team (primarily Jim Smitherman or John Enloe).

Task 5: Water Quality & Resource Management

- ▶ The purpose of this task is to discuss the local water quality resources and effluent limitations, constraints, and opportunities in the context of exploring creative solutions for regional effluent management
 - ▶ Water Rights Strategies
 - ▶ TROA, WQSA, TMDLs
 - ▶ Nature Conservancy River Restoration
 - ▶ TMWA Managed Water Releases to Truckee River
 - ▶ Inter-Facility Raw Sewage / Effluent Interties
 - ▶ Satellite / Flow Shaving Facilities
 - ▶ Effluent Export

Task 6: Future Management Options & Evaluations

- ▶ The purpose of this task is to identify and evaluate future management options for each existing wastewater facility including:
 - ▶ Future options for existing treatment facilities
 - ▶ Opportunities for inter-agency & inter-facility solutions
 - ▶ Options for new facilities, flow shaving facilities, and decommissioning existing facilities

Task 7: Financials

- ▶ The purpose of this task is to develop planning-level costs for effluent management alternatives and consider capital costs, operating costs, rates, fees, and funding sources
 - ▶ Capital Costs
 - ▶ Operating Costs
 - ▶ Rates and fees
 - ▶ Funding Sources
 - ▶ Joint Ventures

Task 8: Finished Product

- ▶ Inter-relationship flowchart or similar tool to help guide decisions
 - ▶ Between facilities

- ▶ Between agencies
- ▶ Budgetary costs for effluent management alternatives
- ▶ Facility-specific timelines showing critical milestones for effluent management limits
- ▶ Facility-specific effluent management alternatives with implementation lead times