

Western Regional Water Commission

STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 15, 2016

TO: Chairman and Members, Western Regional Water Commission ("WRWC")

FROM: Chris Wessel, Water Management Planner

SUBJECT: Possible approval of a no cost six month extension of time to the Interlocal Agreement ("ILA") with Washoe County for the project entitled "Septic Nitrate Baseline Data and Risk Assessment Study, Phase II: In-Depth Analysis of Prioritized Study Areas, Creation of Baseline Data Set, and Risk Assessment" ("Phase II Study"), to allow for completion of the final report; if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute an amendment to the ILA for that purpose.

SUMMARY

The Washoe County Community Services Department ("CSD") staff has completed domestic well sampling and lab analysis data compilation tasks for the Phase II Study. CSD staff provided a presentation on the final report findings to the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission ("NNWPC") at the August 3, 2016 NNWPC meeting. At that time, CSD requested a time extension to the ILA to allow for the completion of the final report, and to conduct additional public outreach.

The NNWPC requested that a proposal be developed for the added scope of work, and that it be brought back for consideration. At the August 7, 2016 NNWPC meeting, CSD staff informed the NNWPC that it had decided not to proceed with additional public outreach. However, CSD and staff did request both an extension of time to complete the final report, at no additional cost, and a retroactive amendment to the ILA to ratify the use of preliminary data by the County for the already completed timely notification of residents in study areas with identified nitrate levels at or above the Maximum Contaminant Level ("MCL"). The proposed Second Amendment to the ILA is attached.

BACKGROUND

The Phase II Study is being conducted by CSD through an ILA with the WRWC. The project is a follow up to the initial study *Septic Nitrate Baseline Data and Risk Assessment Study for Washoe County, Phase I: Prioritization of Study Areas & Assessment of Data Needs*, which was also funded by the Regional Water Management Fund and conducted by CSD (then Washoe County Department of Water Resources) staff. The Phase I study identified areas of historic high density septic system clusters and attempted to rank them based on their potential for nitrate contamination of groundwater. The final report acknowledged data gaps for several of the high density septic system areas identified and recommended follow up work.

FISCAL IMPACT

The requested amendment and time extension will have no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION

The NNWPC recommends that the WRWC approve a Second Amendment to the ILA for the Phase II Study, for a no cost extension of time, and to ratify the County's use of data obtained to provide timely notification to residents in certain study areas with identified nitrate levels at or above the MCL.

POSSIBLE MOTION

“Move to approve the proposed Second Amendment to the ILA for the Phase II Study, and authorize the Chairman to execute the Amendment.

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