

Western Regional Water Commission

STAFF REPORT

DATE: January 11, 2017

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

FROM: Chris Wessel, Water Management Planner

SUBJECT: Presentation on the Nevada Integrated Source Water Protection Program, and possible approval of a letter requesting participation in the program for the Washoe County geographic planning area.

SUMMARY

The Integrated Source Water Protection Program ("ISWP Program") is a voluntary, county-wide approach designed to help communities develop and implement a plan that protects their public drinking water supplies. To date, Source Water Protection Plans have been completed in 7 of Nevada's 17 counties. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection ("NDEP") has contracted with a technical service provider, Resource Concepts, Inc. ("RCI"), to assist in every aspect of source water protection planning and implementation for public water systems throughout Washoe County, should local entities choose to participate in the planning process.

With the assistance of RCI, communities will identify sensitive drinking water protection areas and activities that could contaminate ground water in these areas. Communities will also set source water protection goals, procure resources and develop and implement a source water protection plan.

Kim Borgzinner and Birgit Henson of NDEP will be available to provide a presentation and answer questions on the ISWP Program. NDEP is looking for the WRWC to endorse the ISWP Program efforts by way of a stakeholder letter of support. At its December 7, 2016 meeting, the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission ("NNWPC"), voted unanimously to recommend that WRWC approve and provide such a letter.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with an affirmative recommendation of support for this program.

RECOMMENDATION

The NNWPC recommends that the WRWC issue a letter in support of the ISWP Program.

POSSIBLE MOTION

If the WRWC approves the NNWPC's recommendation, a possible motion might be: "Move to approve a letter in support of the ISWP Program, and authorize the Chairman to sign it on behalf of the WRWC."

CW:df

Attachment: Participation Letter

Date

NDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
901 Stewart Street, Suite 4001
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Attention: Kim Borgzinner, Coordinator

Re: Western Regional Water Commission Participation in the Integrated Source Water Protection Program

Dear Ms. Borgzinner:

Pursuant to the motion made and carried during the regular Western Regional Water Commission ("WRWC") meeting on January 18, 2017, the WRWC hereby requests participation in the State of Nevada's Integrated Source Water Protection Program ("ISWPP") with concurrent update and development of a Truckee River Watershed Management Plan.

The WRWC considers the quality of both surface water and ground water a critical consideration for communities in the Truckee Meadows and throughout Washoe County. We understand that the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection ("NDEP") Bureau of Safe Drinking Water administers the ISWPP, and the Bureau of Water Quality Planning administers the Nonpoint Source Management Program, under section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act. Both voluntary programs provide assistance to public water systems and communities throughout the State of Nevada for water quality protection and preservation.

Therefore, the Commission will designate appropriate staff to participate with NDEP and community representatives toward completion of this planning effort. Successful completion will result in the inclusion of action items **for groundwater and watershed protection** in future Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plans adopted by the WRWC.

Sincerely,