

Western Regional Water Commission

STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 13, 2017

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

FROM: Jim Smitherman, Water Resources Program Manager

SUBJECT: Presentation on the 2016 Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan (“RWMP”), recommended by the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (“NNWPC”) for adoption by the WRWC, including a report on the public review period from March 20 through April 18, 2017; discussion of comments received, and possible direction to staff.

SUMMARY

The 2016 RWMP is an update of the initial Plan adopted in January 2011. It consists of nine chapters, various charts, graphs and maps, and 10 appendices. The 2016 RWMP can be viewed at: <http://www.wrwc.us/draft.html>. Staff will provide a presentation of the key changes in the 2016 RWMP relative to the 2011 version and/or address questions from the WRWC Trustees.

Following this agenda item, the WRWC will have an opportunity to adopt the 2016 RWMP during a public hearing for that purpose. After adoption, the statutes require that the Plan be submitted to the Regional Planning Commission for a review for consistency with respect to the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan.

The public review period for the 2016 RWMP started on March 20 and ends on April 18, 2017. Copies of the RWMP are available for inspection at the WRWC office, the Washoe County Clerk’s office, the City of Reno Clerk’s office, the City of Sparks Clerk’s office, and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”).

On March 30, 2017, staff held a public workshop from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Washoe County Commission Chambers. Notice of the workshop was published and posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law. Staff from TMWA, the Truckee River Flood Management Authority, and the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (“TMRPA”) participated by providing notice to the public by website postings, radio announcements, and social media, and by providing poster board displays and engaging in conversation with the public at the workshop.

Written comments were received from one member of the public at the March 30 workshop, and from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (“NDEP”) on April 3, 2017. A number of comments from the NDEP pertain to minor editorial issues, such as correcting dates and references, or adding factual clarifications. Clarifications and corrections have been included in the document without affecting the content. Substantive comments are attached and will be included in an appendix.

BACKGROUND

Chapter 531, Statutes of Nevada 2007, the Western Regional Water Commission Act (the “Act”), required the NNWPC to develop an “initial Comprehensive Plan” on or before January 1, 2011. In addition, the initial Comprehensive Plan must be reviewed by the NNWPC within five years after its adoption and at least every five years thereafter. After each review, the NNWPC must submit to the WRWC Board any proposed amendment to the Plan or report that there are no amendments.

The five-year review was completed on November 18, 2015 when the WRWC accepted a report on the review of the 2011-2030 Plan. Staff then began the process of compiling and reviewing pertinent information for the development of a Plan update. The review focused on how well the existing Plan and other available information would satisfy the statutory requirements outlined in the Act. Staff also worked with the staff members of WRWC member agencies, the TRMPA, and a small number of consulting firms to receive current information and input on the required elements of the Plan. Staff also requested information from other entities as required by the Act for consideration while developing the Plan update.

The development of the proposed 2016 RWMP was completed in February 2017, and the final draft was presented to the NNWPC for review and direction to staff at its meeting on March 1, 2017. That meeting also included a public hearing, and the approval of a Resolution to recommend the adoption of the Plan by the WRWC. Notice of the public hearing was given as required by law. No comments from the public were submitted during the public hearing. Both the public hearing and the Resolution are required by statute.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On March 15, 2017, the WRWC scheduled a public hearing on April 19, 2017 at 9:15 a.m., for the possible adoption of the 2016 RWMP.

On January 14, 2011, the WRWC approved and adopted the 2011-2030 RWMP.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WRWC accept the report on the 2016 Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan.

POSSIBLE MOTION

“Move to accept the report on the 2016 Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan.”

JS:df

Attachment

2016 Regional Water Management Plan

Comments received from Nevada Division of Environmental Protection April 4, 2017

Page 4-28, PLPT region of the Truckee River: The text should recognize the following - The lowest portion of the Truckee River was found to be the most sensitive to phosphorus during low flows with DO criterion violations ranging from approximately 10% of days to 25% of days upstream of Marble Bluff Dam depending upon phosphorus concentrations.

Page 4-28, last paragraph: Revise paragraph to something similar to the following. I believe this more accurately captures the chain of events:
After completion of the technical analysis, no immediate action was taken by NDEP to complete the WQS review due to considerations regarding the proposed PLPT WQS review. On March 19, 2014, NDEP met with PLPT to discuss the status of NDEP's Truckee River WQS review. During this meeting, Tribal representatives indicated their intention to initiate their own review of their Truckee River WQS, and the group discussed how the outcome of the PLPT review could impact the NDEP review. Clean Water Act regulations require NDEP to set WQS that provide for the attainment and maintenance of the PLPT WQS. On April 1, 2014, PLPT submitted a formal request that NDEP delay its WQS review in order to allow time for the Tribe to complete its WQS review. NDEP agreed with the request and suspended the WQS review until completion of the PLPT WQS. Upon completion of the PLPT WQS review, NDEP determined that there were not enough significant changes that could be made to the regulations to warrant continuing with their WQS review.

Page 4-29, 5th paragraph: Please consider adding the following in the text or possibly as a footnote :

While NDEP supported this change in the DRP criterion, the desire for consistency was not the reason. According to NDEP, the primary reason for the revision was due to the fact that the low flow WQ modeling by LimnoTech indicated that DO criterion violations in the Marble Bluff Dam area would decrease from about 25% of the days to about 10% of the days with a decrease in the DRP concentrations from 0.05 mg/L to 0.022 mg/L, respectively. During their March 2015 meeting, NDEP had discussed these modeling results with the PLPT staff. However, this justification was never included in the PLPT WQS review supporting documents.

This text provides a more complete picture of the basis for the change and what transpired. In our August 18, 2015 comment letter on the PLPT proposed changes (see attached), NDEP reminded PLPT why we were supportive of the changes to the DRP criterion.

Page 4-43, 1st paragraph: It is important to recognize that Steamboat Creek is not on the 303(d) List for phosphorus due to the lack of a total phosphorus water quality standard in the lower creek. However, Steamboat Creek contributes significant phosphorus load to the Truckee River. According to the 1994 TMDL, about 1/3 of the nonpoint source phosphorus load comes from the Steamboat Creek watershed.

2016 WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN WORKSHOP
MARCH 30, 2017

COMMENT SHEET

NAME and CONTACT INFORMATION (Optional): _____

FOR THE RECORD

Please see attached

① NO NEW SALES OR PROPERTY TAX
FOR FLOOD CONTROL

NO ON AN 375

We already pay sales tax for that

② NO to Well Metering!

Jeff Church

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