

Western Regional Water Commission

STAFF REPORT

DATE: January 9, 2020

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

FROM: Jim Smitherman, WRWC Water Resources Program Manager

SUBJECT: Discussion on Program Manager plans for retirement, recommendation for a possible recruitment process, and recommendation for designation of an Interim Program Manager, and possible direction to staff.

SUMMARY

I intend to retire from service as a Washoe County employee in late March 2020. Therefore the WRWC meeting scheduled for March 18, 2020, will be my last. Please see the attached letter.

BACKGROUND

Washoe County has provided staff to the WRWC since 2007 by way of a Cooperative Agreement for Contractual Professional and Administrative Staff Services. The Agreement as amended expires on June 30, 2021. All three WRWC staff members are Washoe County employees and were hired through an open competitive recruitment conducted by the Washoe County Department of Human Resources.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that Chris Wessel be appointed Interim Program Manager effective upon my retirement. In addition, I recommend that Washoe County conduct an open competitive recruitment for a Water Resources Program Manager and provide the WRWC with a list of qualified candidates who have been interviewed and approved for hire by Washoe County. The WRWC could then interview and select from among the candidates and indicate to the County which candidate is the WRWC’s choice.

POSSIBLE MOTION

“Move to appoint Chris Wessel as Interim Program Manager effective upon Mr. Smitherman’s retirement, and direct the Program Manager to request that Washoe County conduct an open competitive recruitment for a Water Resources Program Manager to replace Mr. Smitherman.”

JS:jp

Attachment