

Western Regional Water Commission

STAFF REPORT

DATE: March 11, 2021

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

FROM: Chris Wessel, Water Resources Program Manager
Theresa Jones, Associate Environmental Engineer, City of Reno

SUBJECT: **Workshop:** Presentation on the Truckee Meadows Storm Water Program and review and discussion of Regional Storm Water Planning projects identified as part of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission’s (“NNWPC”) recommended annual budget for ongoing and future projects and studies for Fiscal Year 2021– 2022.

SUMMARY

The Storm Water Permit Coordinating Committee (“SWPCC”), created by cooperative agreement in 1990 and led by the City of Reno, is charged with implementing the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) permit issued jointly to the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and Washoe County for storm water discharges to the Truckee River and its tributaries. The WRWC began providing ongoing funding for this program in 2011, in an annual amount of \$262,500 from the RWMF. The intended purpose is to support the Truckee Meadows Storm Water Quality Management Program, including SWPCC activities related to the implementation of the water quality and storm water drainage provisions of the Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan.

From time to time, the SWPCC recommend projects that they believe are important to the management of the NPDES permit but are beyond the SWPCC’s ability to fund within their annual administrative budget. One such program is a water quality crediting and offset program which can create compliance flexibility and lower costs for permittees within the Truckee Meadows region to meet discharge permit requirements for nutrients and total dissolved solids. A well-designed program can unlock new funding, enable flexibility in project siting and ensure public funds are focused on the most cost-effective pollutant reduction projects. For example, A Crediting Program could allow a private company to become a source of funding to reduce loads on Washoe County or City of Reno or Sparks land rather than doing on-site stormwater treatment. The SWPCC and the NNWPC have reviewed and unanimously recommended the project to the WRWC for funding consideration.

Theresa Jones, Associate Civil Engineer, and SWPCC Coordinator for the City of Reno is here to present an overview of the Storm Water Program and its’ administration. In addition, Ms. Jones, Nick Brothers, Associate Civil Engineer, City of Reno and Chad Praul from Environmental Incentives, will provide an overview of the proposed water quality crediting and offset program.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact to the RWMF, for the annual funding of the Truckee Meadows Storm Water Quality Management Program administration would not exceed a total of \$262,500 for FY 2021 – 2022. Additionally, funding for an agreement with the city of Reno to implement the water quality crediting and offset program would not exceed \$200,000 for fiscal years 2021-2023. Budget authority is in Fund Group 766, Fund 7066, Account Number 710100, Professional Services, Cost Object WP310300.

RECOMMENDATION

The NNWPC, at its February 6, 2021 meeting, reviewed and recommended WRWC enter into an agreement with the City of Reno for the proposed water quality crediting and offset program, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000, for fiscal years 2021-2023.

POSSIBLE MOTION

“Move to approve an agreement with the City of Reno for the proposed water quality crediting and offset program, in an amount not exceed \$200,000, for fiscal years 2021-2023, upon approval of the budget, and authorize the Chair to execute the agreement for that purpose.”

CW:jp

Attachments:

1. Workshop Truckee Meadows Storm water Program Presentation
2. Proposal to Develop a Water Quality Crediting Program for Truckee Meadows