

# Western Regional Water Commission

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** June 15, 2017

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

**FROM:** Chris Wessel, Water Management Planner

**SUBJECT:** Discussion and possible approval of three-month, no-cost time extensions for two Interlocal Agreements (“ILAs”) with the Desert Research Institute (“DRI”): a) The Cloud Seeding project for the 2016 – 2017 season, and b) The Cloud Seeding Monitoring Gauges project; and possible direction to staff.

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### **SUMMARY**

The WRWC currently has two active ILAs with DRI associated with cloud seeding, as listed above. Staff anticipated that work associated with both projects would be completed by June 30, 2017, based on conditions from previous years; however, due to the significant amount of precipitation which the area experienced during the 2016 – 2017 fall and winter, DRI anticipates that a significant remaining snow pack will prevent the timely completion of portions of the required work.

The Cloud Seeding project requires access to remove various snow generators in conformance with United States Forest Service permit conditions. In addition, DRI anticipates that the residual snow pack will restrict access and prevent installation of the last pair of automated precipitation gauges associated with the Cloud Seeding Monitoring Gauge project. For these reasons, DRI has requested three month, no-cost extensions for both ILAs.

### **BACKGROUND**

Since 2009, DRI has conducted its cloud seeding program for the Truckee River and Lake Tahoe Basins using funds provided by either the Truckee Meadows Water Authority or the Truckee River Fund, and the WRWC. The current ILA for the Cloud Seeding project includes a budget for \$100,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund (“RWMF”) to partially fund cloud seeding operations for water year 2016 – 2017.

At the request of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (“NNWPC”), DRI developed a proposal to better quantify the results of the Cloud Seeding program. The original scope of work and ILA for the Monitoring Gauges project required the installation of six precipitation gauges over a three-year period, at a cost not to exceed \$25,000 per year from the RWMF.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

This action will result in no impact to the RWMF.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The NNWPC recommends that the WRWC approve three-month, no-cost time extensions for the above two ILAs with DRI, and, if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute appropriate amendments to both ILAs for that purpose.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with the NNWPC recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve three-month, no-cost time extensions for two ILAs with DRI: a) The Cloud Seeding project for the 2016 – 2017 season, and b) The Cloud Seeding Monitoring Gauges project, and authorize the Chairman to execute amendments to the ILAs for that purpose."

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