

Western Regional Water Commission

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 15, 2020

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

FROM: Chris Wessel, Water Management Planner

SUBJECT: Discussion and action on Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (“NNWPC”) recommendations for a Contract Agreement with the Nevada Landscape Association (“NLA”), in an amount of \$12,500 per year for two years, not to exceed \$25,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund (“RWMF”), to continue the Certified Landscape Technician (“CLT”) Program for Fiscal Year (“FY”) 2020-2021 and FY 2021-2022; and, if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute an Interlocal Agreement for that purpose

SUMMARY

The NLA submitted a request for partial funding of the CLT testing program (the “CLT Program”) for fiscal years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. The CLT Program has historically been funded, in part, through the RWMF, and is described in the 2016-2035 Regional Water Management Plan, Chapter 7 -Water Conservation Plan - Efficient Use of Water; Section 7.5.10 Public Education element. The request for funding, not to exceed \$12,500 per year for two years, is based on a two-year budget that reflects past program expenses since 2004.

Rick Clark, CLT Program Administrator, and Laine Christman, Resource Economist for TMWA, will be available to answer questions regarding CLT Program proposal.

BACKGROUND

The NLA brought the CLT Program to the region in 2003, through its association with the Professional Landscape Network (formerly Associated Landscape Contractors of America), as a way to raise the standards of the local landscape industry. Regional Water Planning Commission support for the program began in 2005, based on a recommendation from the Regional Water Planning Commission’s Advisory Committee on Conservation. The multi-module, practical exam is administered in a number of states and internationally. The CLT Program is widely accepted by the local industry, as shown by the long list of individuals and companies that have donated time and funding to support the program.

The CLT Program provides best-practices landscaping training in 5 designated areas – irrigation (installation and maintenance), softscape (planting of trees), hardscape (installation of pavers, drainage, etc.), turf grass maintenance, and non-turf grass maintenance. The current CLT Program’s primary focus is on upkeep of existing systems, without specific emphasis on efficiency. The University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (“UNCE”) and the NLA, with the support of the TMWA, also offers the Qualified Water Efficient Landscaping program (the “QWEL Program”), which has received financial assistance under TMWA’s Landscape Retrofit

Fund. When taken in combination, both the CLT and QWEL Programs provide landscape professionals the best training possible to create and maintain landscapes in the Truckee Meadows.

FISCAL IMPACT

If approved, the fiscal impact to the RWMF will not exceed \$25,000 for FY2020-2021 and FY2021-2022 subject to approval of both fiscal year budgets. The FY2020-2021 approved final budget, includes sufficient budget for this project. Budget authority is located in Fund Group 766, Fund 7066, Account Number 710100, cost center WP310103.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WRWC approval an Interlocal Agreement with the Nevada Landscape Association, in an amount of \$12,500 per year for two years, not to exceed \$25,000 from the RWMF, to continue the Certified Landscape Technician Program for FY 2020-2021 and FY 2021-2022

POSSIBLE MOTION

“Move to approval an Interlocal Agreement with the Nevada Landscape Association, in an amount of \$12,500 per year for two years, not to exceed \$25,000 from the RWMF, to continue the Certified Landscape Technician Program for FY 2020-2021 and FY 2021-2022; and, if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute an Interlocal Agreement for that purpose.”



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**NEVADA LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION
REQUEST FOR FUNDING
EXHIBIT A
Scope of Work**

**Landscape Industry Certified - Technician Exam
Nevada Landscape Association**

The Landscape Industry Certified- Technician exam is a hands-on testing program administered in Nevada by the Nevada Landscape Association (NLA). NLA has joined forces with the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) formerly, Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) to offer the Certification exam in Nevada. The exam was initially developed and organized by the California Landscape Contractors Association Certification Committee, and first administered in 1983. In 1984, PLANET's predecessor, the Associated Landscape Contractors of America, purchased the rights to the exam and offered it to state associations. NLA purchased the rights to administer the exam in 2002 and conducted its first exam in 2003. The Nevada Landscape Association has helped produce over 100 Landscape Certified technicians.

The most critical component of the Certification exam is the Irrigation Module. This comprehensive module covers plan reading, automatic controller programming (including Evapotranspiration and water budgeting), troubleshooting and wiring, automatic and mechanical valve assembly, proper piping selection and fitting, drip systems, sprinkler selection and adjustment and more.

Certification ensures that industry personnel understand water use and efficiency, water conservation and proper techniques for installation and maintenance of irrigation components with an emphasis on responsible water resource management.

Objectives:

The objectives of the Landscape Industry Certified- Technician exam are to:

1. Promote responsible resource management including water conservation. **According to Truckee Meadows Water Authority, irrigation accounts for 53% of ALL water use from their customers.**
2. Enhance and recognize proficiency in the landscape professional workforce.

3. Provide the public a means of identifying qualified landscape professionals.

Project Evaluation:

Post-exam critique with Certification Committee and review of NALP Test Evaluator report.

Deliverables:

Prepare and deliver post-exam reports to Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) by September 30, 2020. NLA will provide the NNWPC with a report and budget accounting for the 2020 Certification exam, and projections for the 2021 exam. This would include budget figures and give detail on what NNWPC Funds were used for and the number of candidates that tested, retested, passed or failed. A list of committee members, judges and sponsors will also be included for each test.

2020 – 2021 Exam Timeline and Activities:

May

Continue advertising campaign by distributing brochure and videos via email and fax. Initial contact with test sponsors. Meet with TMCC staff to plan practice test and deliver Liability Insurance form. Contact re-test Candidates.

April/ May edition of Landscape Nevada will include Certification stories as well as the brochure and application. Promotional videos will continue via email.

May – July – Certification Test Planning

Contact and secure sponsors, judges and volunteers. Order supplies, equipment, arrange for services (security, first aid, etc.) for test day. Continue advertising campaign.

****Develop new modules including backflow management, water efficient sprinklers and drip irrigation installation and management.**

August 29 – Mock Field Test training offered

Classroom seminar to help potential Candidates prepare for the field portions of the exam. Practice test will allow potential Candidates to familiarize themselves with the hands- on exam components.

September 25- Test Site set- up, Written Exam

Certification trailer, rental units, equipment and refreshment area are delivered. Judge and Candidates Orientation held. Committee and Judges set up Hands- on testing modules to guarantee all the proper tools and materials are available. Candidates take written exam.

September 26 – TEST DAY and test follow up

Committee arrives at 5:30 A.M., Judges 6:00 A.M. Candidate Registration begins at 6:15 A.M. Testing begins when all Candidates are registered and Judges are ready at their problems; normally 7:00 A.M. Testing continues through the day until Candidates have completed all of their assigned problems. Several breaks are provided, along with refreshments and lunch. Test Evaluation forms filled out by Candidates and Judges. Committee debriefs. Record and verify

test scores, notify candidates, mail certification cards, etc. Prepare and send report to NALP. Announce new Landscape Industry Certified- Technicians in association newsletter, invite to award event. Thank sponsors, judges, volunteers and committee.

September 26 – After Test Debriefing

Debrief with Certification Committee. Review, evaluate and report problems that would require test revision.

October 6

Prepare test results documents for NNWPC.

Administrator attends NALP Certification Meeting.

November

New Certificates will be presented at the NLA Awards Banquet.

December

Prepare 2021 brochure and application.

Future of certification program:

The NLA is coordinating with TMWA and UNCE to provide a Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) certification. Its function is to certify individuals in Irrigation Audit. QWEL is approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) WaterSense.

Expenses / Budget

**Landscape Industry Certified - Technician Exam
Nevada Landscape Association**

Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission Funds will assist with overall expenses in the following program categories;

- Module supplies will need some increase; the test site needs some repairs, upgrades.
- Additional training classes and a practice test, effectively doubling our costs for meals, supplies, rentals and staff.

Income	Projected 2020	Projected 2021
Candidates and Study Guides	\$ 6,500	\$ 7,000
Sponsorships and Donations	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,815
NNWPC Funding	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500
Total Income	\$ 29,000	\$ 30,315
Expenses	\$ 29,000	\$ 31,315

**NEVADA LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION
REQUEST FOR FUNDING**

Funding requested: The Nevada Landscape Association is requesting a total of **\$25,000.00** for the purpose of funding the Certification Exam, Exam upgrades, continuing education and training.

Sincerely,

Rick Clark

Rick Clark
Nevada Landscape Association