

Western Regional Water Commission

STAFF REPORT

DATE: June 10, 2021

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

FROM: Jim Smitherman, Water Resources Consultant

SUBJECT: Discussion and action on a request by the Regional Effluent Management Team to expand funding, for consulting engineering assistance concerning the completion of the Regional Effluent Management Planning Guidance Document Project in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 from the Regional Water Management Fund ("RWMF") for fiscal year 2021-2022.

SUMMARY

In July 2020, the WRWC approved of a scope of work and funding in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 from the RWMF for Brown and Caldwell to provide engineering technical assistance for the completion of the Regional Effluent Management Planning Guidance Document ("the Project"). The WRWC executed a contract with Brown and Caldwell the following month for project support at the direction of the Regional Effluent Management Team ("the Team").

The Team and consultants have worked together well, and the Project is approaching completion within the existing project timeframe and budget, however the Team has determined that expanding the timeframe and funding is advisable to retain technical support through the project review and approval period. This would include one or more meetings each of the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission ("NNWPC") and the WRWC, and any resulting revisions.

While the Project is identified in the current fiscal year WRWC budget, no fiscal year 2021-2022 budget amount is included in the adopted budget. However, recommended funds are currently available in the WRWC project contingency fund.

BACKGROUND

In December 2014, the NNWPC directed staff to prepare a presentation summarizing wastewater master planning in the region and outlining a scope of work for a wastewater and effluent management master plan update. Working together with the Team, technical staff from the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, Washoe County and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, staff provided the requested information and materials at the following two NNWPC meetings. The Team had been meeting informally since April 2014 to discuss regional effluent management issues.

In February 2015, the NNWPC, approved funding for project coordination services to help the Team develop a framework to be used as the basis of an effluent management strategy focused on the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility and the South Truckee Meadows Water

Reclamation Facility. Mr. Roy Johnson, Managing Engineer at Brown and Caldwell provided project coordination and completed the framework in 2018.

In March 2018, the WRWC approved of a scope of work, and funding in an amount not to exceed \$561,000 from the RWMF for the development of a Regional Effluent Management Planning Guidance Document (“the Project”). The WRWC approved and executed an Interlocal Agreement with the University of Nevada, Reno (“UNR”) to have the Nevada Water Innovation Institute provide primary support, i.e., an Associate Research Professor, to develop the document at the direction of the Team.

The Project progressed over the first two years of the three-year agreement. In 2020, the Team determined that external engineering technical support was necessary to assist in the completion the Project. Staff requested a proposal from Mr. Johnson, at Brown and Caldwell, who developed the effluent management framework that serves as the basis for the Project.

FISCAL IMPACT

The net fiscal impact to the RWMF for this item, if approved, will not exceed \$50,000 in FY 2021-2022. Budget authority is provided in the FY 2021-2022 budget, in Fund Group 766, Fund 7066, Account Number 710100, Professional Services, Cost Object WP310200.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WRWC approve funding, not to exceed \$50,000 from the RWMF, for the continuation of consulting engineering assistance concerning the completion of the Regional Effluent Management Planning Guidance Document Project and authorize the Program Manger to execute an amendment to the existing agreement with Brown and Caldwell for that purpose.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

“Move to approve funding, not to exceed \$50,000 from the RWMF, for consulting engineering assistance concerning the completion of the Regional Effluent Management Planning Guidance Document Project and authorize the Program Manger to execute an amendment to the existing agreement with Brown and Caldwell for that purpose.”

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