

Western Regional Water Commission

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 12, 2022

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

FROM: Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager

SUBJECT: Action, discussion and direction to staff regarding a possible determination on whether the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) 2022 Consensus Forecast for Washoe County can be supported by the sustainable water resources set forth in the Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan (RWMP)

SUMMARY

On August 3, 2022, the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC) advanced a recommendation to the WRWC to make a determination that the draft Consensus Forecast population for 2042 is less than the estimated population that can be supported by the sustainable water resources set forth in the RWMP, and a finding that the forecasted population can be supported by such water resources.

The TMRPA prepared the draft 2022-2042 Consensus Forecast for Washoe County and submitted it to staff for comparison with the estimated population that can be supported by the sustainable water resources as set forth in the RWMP.

The draft 2022-2042 Consensus Forecast projects that the total population in Washoe County will grow from 489,180 to 587,479 in 2042, increasing by approximately 100,000 persons. TMWA's [2020 Water Resources Plan](#) (2020 WRP) includes a water demand projection of 96,000 acre-feet annually (afa) in 2040. For areas outside of the TMWA service boundaries, the [Draft 2021-2040 Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan](#) (2021-2040 RWMP) estimated the 2040 water demand is 12,000 afa. Therefore, the total 2040 projected water demand for Washoe County is approximately 108,000 afa.

The 2021-2040 RWMP includes an estimate of potentially available, sustainable water resources of approximately 192,988 afa. In addition, staff reported in 2020 that approximately 143,800 afa of the sustainable water resources are potentially available with no additional water importation.

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSION

By comparison, the draft 2022-2042 Washoe County Consensus Forecast population of 587,479 persons and subsequent water demand projection of approximately 108,000 afa is significantly less than what the sustainable water resources identified in the RWMP can support, even without additional water importation.

BACKGROUND

In January 2010, the Regional Planning Governing Board (RPGB) adopted certain amendments to the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan (Regional Plan), and the RPGB Regulations on Procedure, identifying the NNWPC and the WRWC as the entities to perform a comparison, prior to the adoption of the Consensus Forecast, of the draft Washoe County Consensus Forecast and the estimated population that can be supported by the sustainable water resources as set forth in the RWMP.

According to the amended RPGB Regulations on Procedure, the NNWPC, upon receiving the draft consensus forecast document, will compare the draft population forecast with the estimated population that can be supported by the sustainable water resources as set forth in the RWMP and advance a recommendation for consideration to the WRWC. The WRWC will then make a determination based on the NNWPC's recommendation concerning the comparison described above and inform Reno, Sparks, Washoe County, and the TMRPA as to its finding.

The RPGB Regulations on Procedure state that if the WRWC determines the draft Consensus Forecast is less than or equal to the estimated population that can be supported by the sustainable water resources identified in the RWMP, the WRWC will submit the draft Consensus Forecast to Reno, Sparks, Washoe County, and the TMRPA with a finding that the forecasted population can be supported by the sustainable water resources as set forth in the RWMP.

Since 2010, the NNWPC has made the comparison and advanced a recommendation to the WRWC as to whether the Consensus Forecast population can be supported by the sustainable water resources identified in the RWMP (see Attachment 6a). The WRWC approved the NNWPC's recommendations and found that the draft Consensus Forecast population was less than the estimated population that can be supported by the sustainable water resources set forth in the RWMP, and directed staff to inform Reno, Sparks, Washoe County, and the TMRPA.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff proposes the WRWC make a determination that the draft Consensus Forecast population for 2042 is less than the estimated population that can be supported by the sustainable water resources set forth in the RWMP, and make a determination that the forecasted population can be supported by such water resources with direction to staff to inform Reno, Sparks, Washoe County and the TMRPA.

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Attachments: Consensus Forecast Comparison 2010-2022

| 2010 Consensus Forecast Review | | 2012 Consensus Forecast Review | |
|--|------------------|---|------------------|
| 2010 Population | 434,519 | 2012 Population | 425,930 |
| 2030 Population | <u>590,533</u> | 2032 Population | <u>560,772</u> |
| 2011-2030 RWMP Sustainable Water Resources (afa) | 183,250 | 2011-2030 RWMP Sustainable Water Resources (afa) | 183,250 |
| 2030 Water Demand Projection (afa) | <u>(142,000)</u> | 2030 Water Demand Projection (afa) | <u>(142,000)</u> |
| Sustainable WR > Demand (afa) | 41,250 | Sustainable WR > Demand (afa) | 41,250 |
| <i>Water Demand based on TMWA "2010-2030 Consensus Forecast Population and Building and Water Use Projections"</i> | | <i>2032 Pop Est. < 2030, therefore no new water demand projection was requested.</i> | |

| 2014 Consensus Forecast Review | | 2016 Consensus Forecast Review | |
|--|------------------|---|------------------|
| 2014 Population | 442,123 | 2016 Population | 450,747 |
| 2034 Population | <u>563,779</u> | 2036 Population | <u>548,159</u> |
| 2011-2030 RWMP Sustainable Water Resources (afa) | 183,250 | 2011-2030 RWMP Sustainable Water Resources (afa) | 183,250 |
| 2030 Water Demand Projection (afa) | <u>(142,000)</u> | 2036 Water Demand Projection (afa) | <u>(116,000)</u> |
| Sustainable WR > Demand (afa) | 41,250 | Sustainable WR > Demand (afa) | 67,250 |
| <i>2034 Pop Est. < 2030 & 2032, therefore no new water demand projection was requested.</i> | | <i>2036 Population < 2034 Population TMWA updated water demand estimate methodology.</i> | |

| 2018 Consensus Forecast Review | | 2020 Consensus Forecast Review | |
|--|------------------|--|------------------|
| 2018 Population | 451,923 | 2020 Population | 469,801 |
| 2038 Population | <u>558,746</u> | 2040 Population | <u>569,385</u> |
| 2016-2035 RWMP Sustainable Water Resources (afa) | 190,500 | 2016-2035 RWMP Sustainable Water Resources (afa) | 190,500 |
| 2038 Water Demand Projection (afa) | <u>(111,875)</u> | 2040 Water Demand Projection (afa) | <u>(114,100)</u> |
| Sustainable WR > Demand (afa) | 78,625 | Sustainable WR > Demand (afa) | 76,400 |
| <i>RWMP Update for Sustainable Water Resources Updated TMWA 2036 water demand projection to include water loss and adjusted domestic well water demand calculations.</i> | | <i>Water Demand Projection not requested, staff recommended increase of 2% in alignment with 2040 Consensus Forecast Population 2% increase.</i> | |

| 2022 Consensus Forecast Review | |
|---|------------------|
| 2022 Population | 489,180 |
| 2042 Population | <u>587,479</u> |
| 2021-2040 RWMP Sustainable Water Resources (afa) | 192,988 |
| 2040 Water Demand Projection (afa) | <u>(108,000)</u> |
| Sustainable WR > Demand (afa) | 84,988 |
| <i>RWMP Update for Sustainable Water Resources TMWA 2020-2040 WRP update for Water Demand</i> | |

Notes:

- acre feet annually (afa)
- 2013, 2014 and 2015 drought impacts to water demand
- 2015 WC DWR merger with TMWA updated water demand estimate methodology