

Western Regional Water Commission and Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission

STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 27, 2022
TO: Chairmen and Members, Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) and Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC)
FROM: Kim Rigdon, Water Resources Program Manager
SUBJECT: Presentation and report concerning progress and status of Nevada Water Innovation Institute (NWII) studies and projects supported by the Regional Water Management Fund (RWMF)

SUMMARY

NWII was established by the WRWC and NNWPC and five other entities including UNR. Since its founding in 2017, NWII has made significant contribution to the water resiliency, sustainability, and workforce development for the region and for the water sector. Over the past five years, the University of Nevada, Reno, NWII, with regional partners demonstrated advanced water reclamation to achieve Category A+ (advanced purified) water, and NWII continues to provide leadership and guidance to the OneWater Nevada collaborative through regional water management coordination. In September 2022, NWII submitted the *Enhanced Source Control for Regional Water Reuse and Resource Protection Final Report (Report)*. The *Report* summarizes existing water reclamation facility source control programs, details regulatory compliance for reuse strategies and evaluates problematic contaminants which may enter the wastewater collection systems for Phase 2 monitoring and sampling needs.

BACKGROUND

On June 15, 2022, the WRWC approved the NWII scope of work and funding in support of continued regional water management leadership and technical assistance from NWII. The scope of work includes technical assistance and coordination necessary to continue the next phase of advanced purified water treatment technology implementation at American Flat, continued investigations and demonstration projects in the region and collaboration with regional partners to develop and manage a programmatic approach to address regional water challenges.

The WRWC also approved the NWII scope of work and funding from the RWMF on May 19, 2021, to develop an enhanced source control framework for each of the five (5) regional water reclamation facilities. Wastewater effluent management strategies, ranging from environmental discharges to potable reuse systems, have very specific water quality objectives and regulatory requirements that are met through treatment processes and operational protocols. Improving the quality of the wastewater being received at a treatment facility is an effective and efficient strategy to manage the facility's effluent water quality.

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