

STAFF REPORT

To: Mayor and City Council

Agenda Item:
Date: **10-10-2012**

Thru: Andrew Clinger, City Manager

Subject:

Staff Report: Approval of an Interlocal Agreement with the Desert Research Institute (DRI) and the City of Sparks to conduct water quality monitoring on behalf of the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF).

From: E. Terri Svetich, Engineering Manager

Summary: The purpose of this interlocal is to facilitate greater monitoring and staff efficiency. TMWRF technical staff will remain in the lab conducting certain analyses while DRI provides staff for collection of samples throughout the watershed, field measurements and other analyses. Staff recommends Council approval of this interlocal agreement between the Cities of Reno and Sparks and DRI to more efficiently manage watershed monitoring required in TMWRF's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

Previous Council Action: None

Background: The Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF) is jointly owned by the Cities of Reno and Sparks. The City of Reno oversees the Capital Improvement Program for TMWRF, while the City of Sparks manages operations. The City of Reno is billed for its flow-based share of the operational expenses. TMWRF operation includes a laboratory and competent lab staff qualified and capable of operating complex analytical equipment and analyses. The NPDES permit for effluent discharge to the Truckee River issued by the NDEP requires monitoring of surface water quality of the Truckee River and selected tributaries. This watershed monitoring is in addition to the monitoring required for the treatment plant operations and assessing the quality of effluent discharged to the Truckee River or utilized in the Reclaimed Water distribution system. TMWRF laboratory staff has always been responsible for collecting the samples in the field as well as analyzing the samples. With staff reductions, there is a greater need to look at innovative ways of becoming more efficient. The NPDES permit was renewed on May 12, 2012 and now includes language that allows for a responsible third party to collect and analyze data on behalf of TMWRF.

The Cities of Reno and Sparks, DRI and 10 other entities were signatories to the Truckee River Coordinated Monitoring Program (CMP), which committed to sharing resources and data in monitoring the Truckee River Watershed and named the Truckeeriverinfo.org website as the clearinghouse for such watershed data. The CMP development process was an intense local working group that developed an understanding of the watershed monitoring and data overlaps and gaps present in existing datasets collected on the Truckee River. Based on that knowledge, there was a collaborative effort to identify how

watershed monitoring could be conducted more efficiently with the ability to have more meaningful results in assessing the health of the Truckee River.

Discussion: DRI successfully obtained Truckee River Fund monies for a cooperative surface water monitoring program. This program includes the collection of surface water samples along the Truckee River and tributaries required by the TMWRF permit. Also included in the funded program is analysis of samples for certain inorganic metals requested by NDEP. TMWRF has the technical equipment and personnel capable of conducting metals analysis. Therefore, an opportunity to more efficiently and cost effectively utilize staff was recognized for the benefit of the Cities and DRI. The purpose of this agreement is to layout each parties responsibilities and ensure that TMWRF is meeting the terms of the NPDES permit. The DRI Truckee River Funding continues through June 2013. The grant may be extended or other funds may be secured.

Financial Implications: The interlocal agreement with DRI relieves TMWRF staff of field duties, allowing a reallocation of their time to analyses and workload efficiency resulting in lower laboratory operation costs.

Recommendation: Staff recommends Council approval of the interlocal agreement with Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education, on behalf of the Desert Research Institute (DRI), and the City of Sparks to conduct watershed monitoring on behalf of TMWRF and authorization for the Mayor to sign.

Proposed Motion: I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments: Interlocal Agreement with the City of Sparks and Board of Regents, Nevada System of Higher Education, on behalf of the Desert Research Institute (DRI),
| [Exhibits A, and B, C and D.](#)