

STAFF REPORT

Date: July 22, 2020

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Jason Soto, Acting City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of amended agreement with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) for a no-cost extension to the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF) Enhanced DON Removal Pilot Project agreement.

From: Matt Smith, Associated Civil Engineer

Summary: The attached Amendment to Agreement with the University of Nevada, Reno, is a no-cost time extension for performance of the Enhanced Dissolved Organic Nitrogen (DON) Coagulation Pilot Study by the University. The Amendment will expand the performance period from October 22, 2020 to December 31, 2020 at no additional cost. The pilot study has been successful to date; however, due to circumstances related to COVID-19, UNR has been unable to perform the responsibilities according to the original schedule. Staff recommends the approval of the Amendment to Agreement for a no-cost time extension.

Previous Council Action:

October 10, 2018 - Council approved an Agreement with the University of Nevada, Reno in the amount of \$310,380.48 to perform the Enhanced DON Coagulation Pilot study.

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 (CIP) for TMWRF, while the City of Sparks manages the operations.

TMWRF currently has a discharge permit that limits the daily mass of nitrogen that is released to the Truckee River. The current treatment technologies at TMWRF operate efficiently but do have limitations. One of the limitations is associated with the removal of dissolved organic nitrogen (DON) from the effluent. Staff continues to investigate options for efficient removal of nitrogen from the effluent being discharged to the Truckee River.

The City of Reno has contracted with UNR to perform laboratory testing of the three treatment technologies using TMWRF effluent. Based on the results of the UNR laboratory testing, the most cost efficient and reliable enhanced nitrogen removal process is the coagulation / filtration process. Therefore, the next step in evaluating the preferred enhanced nitrogen removal technology is pilot scale testing at TMWRF for up to 12 months. The pilot testing is providing

key data for the future design of any treatment system. This effort will include development of cost estimates for full-scale implementation and operation of the treatment process.

Discussion: The amended agreement includes a no-cost extension of time for continued assistance from UNR staff to develop an operations plan for the enhanced nitrogen removal pilot system.

Financial Implications: No financial implications as this is an Amendment to Agreement for an extension of time only.

Legal Implications: Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada Law.

Recommendation: Staff recommends Council approve the amended agreement with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) for a no-cost extension of the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF) Enhanced DON Removal Pilot Project agreement and authorize the Mayor to execute the attached amended agreement.

Proposed Motion: I move to approve the staff recommendation.