



STAFF REPORT

TO: Chairman and Board Members

THRU: Mark Foree, General Manager

FROM: Ron Penrose P.E., TMWA Project Manager and River Fund Facilitator
Janet Phillips, Chairperson, Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee
Sylvia Harrison, Legal Counsel

DATE: June 28, 2011

**SUBJECT: Recommendation for Funding Project from the Truckee River Fund/
Integrated Water Quality Monitoring on the Truckee River**

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the TMWA Board authorize by resolution the funding of a project reviewed by the TRF Fund Advisors at its June 27, 2011 meeting.

Project Name: Integrated Water Quality Monitoring on the Truckee River

Organization: Desert Research Institute

Amount Requested: \$318,012

Amount Recommended: \$318,012

Organizational Match: \$80,000 (cash); NDEP
\$55,840 (in-kind); Storm Water Coordinating Committee
\$19,222 (in-kind); Truckee River Flood Management Authority

Project Description

The overall project entails the development and implementation of an integrated water quality monitoring program for the Truckee River from Tahoe City to Marble Bluff dam just upstream of Pyramid Lake. This is a one-time, two year, stop-gap funding request to support the most

critical Truckee River water quality monitoring needs recently impacted by State and local budget cuts. These cuts have severely hampered the monitoring program previously performed collectively by DRI and Reno and Sparks by staff from the Truckee Meadows Wastewater Reclamation Facility.

The project includes the following major elements:

Water Quality Sampling/Testing: Monthly collection will be performed at 13 locations. Water quality testing will be performed by DRI for 26 physical and chemical constituents including all forms of nitrogen and phosphorus.

Analysis and Field Collection of Benthic Macro Invertebrates: Field collection and analysis for benthic invertebrates will be performed at three locations upstream and downstream of river restoration projects being jointly managed by The Nature Conservancy and Truckee River Flood Management Authority. Analysis of this data will provide good base line information to measure the environmental improvement of the Truckee River stemming from the completion of these projects.

Project Discussion/Need/TMWA Benefit

The Truckee River is a regulated water body under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and subsequent amendments. The CWA originally established nationwide effluent standards for “point source” discharges of pollution. It was subsequently amended to establish a national permit system for point source discharges and again amended to address “non-point” sources such as storm water. In the State of Nevada, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) has maintained primacy and enforcement of the CWA and, as such, has set forth water quality standards and pollutant load limitations (TMDL’s) on the water bodies of Nevada, including the Truckee River.

Specific to the Truckee River, NDEP has set water quality standards and TMDL’s along segmented reaches of the river to ensure that beneficial uses (including municipal water supply) are not compromised. Every three years, NDEP can reevaluate the water quality standards for selected water bodies. It can also re-evaluate TMDL’s associated with point discharges if new information and data warrant such a reevaluation.

At the request of the City of Reno, NDEP has initiated a concurrent review of water quality standards along the Truckee River along with a TMDL reevaluation relative to nutrient discharges from TMWRF. This is termed a 3rd Party TMDL.

State and local budget cutbacks have and will seriously jeopardize the ability to monitor water quality as required under the CWA and will severely damage the ability to collect data necessary to complete a timely review of Truckee River water quality standards and potential TMDL changes. TMWA is also concerned that budget cuts could impact water quality monitoring

upstream of treatment plant intakes, thereby jeopardizing the ability to monitor river quality from a “drinking water beneficial use” perspective.

Approval of this one time, two- year funding for the monitoring program will provide the following benefits to the Reno-Sparks Community and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

- It will ensure that long established beneficial uses (including municipal water supply) of the river will not be compromised. This can only be ensured with continued monitoring and testing.
- It will provide much needed data concerning the positive environmental impacts of river restoration projects currently under construction. This includes TMWA’s Glendale Water Supply Improvement Project (which has a streambed restoration component) and the recently completed Pioneer Ditch Diversion Relocation Project, a project supported by TMWA TRF funds.

RP/rp

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY
(TMWA)

RESOLUTION NO. 177

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROJECT
FOR FUNDING UNDER THE TRUCKEE RIVER FUND**

WHEREAS, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority and the Community Foundation of Western Nevada (the "Community Foundation"), a Nevada non-profit corporation, have entered into an agreement creating The Truckee River Fund (the "Fund") to foster projects that protect and enhance water quality or water resources of the Truckee River, or its watershed;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Fund Agreement, an Advisory Committee has solicited proposals from prospective beneficiaries of the Fund;

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee has recommended a project for funding, as listed on Exhibit A, attached hereto;

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee has the responsibility of securing preliminary approval for projects from the TMWA Board, which may disapprove projects for any reason, or may approve projects by resolution, subject to Community Foundation Board approval;

WHEREAS, the Community Foundation has advised the Advisory Committee that the projects applicants are eligible beneficiaries of the Fund;

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and has found that the project as listed on Exhibit A is consistent with the purposes of the Fund and merits funding;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority:

The project set forth on Exhibit A is approved for funding under the Truckee River Fund in the amount set forth in such Exhibit, subject to final authorization by the Community Foundation Board, and subject to the provisions of the Fund Agreement, including without limitation the requirements set forth in Article VC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority,

Upon motion of _____, seconded by _____, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted on July 7, 2011 by the following vote of the Board:

Ayes: _____

Nays: _____

Abstain: _____ Absent: _____

Approved July 7, 2011

Mike Carrigan, Chairman

STATE OF NEVADA,)
 : ss.
COUNTY OF WASHOE.)

On this 7th day of July, 2011, Mike Carrigan, Chairman of the Board of Truckee Meadows Water Authority, personally appeared before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, and acknowledged that he executed the above instrument freely and voluntarily and for the purposes therein mentioned.

Notary Public

EXHIBIT A

PROJECT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING

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The project includes the following major elements:

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State and local budget cutbacks have and will seriously jeopardize the ability to monitor water quality as required under the CWA and will severely damage the ability to collect data necessary to complete a timely review of Truckee River water quality standards and potential TMDL changes. TMWA is also concerned that budget cuts could impact water quality monitoring upstream of treatment plant intakes, thereby jeopardizing the ability to monitor river quality from a “drinking water beneficial use” perspective.

Approval of this one time, two- year funding for the monitoring program will provide the following benefits to the Reno-Sparks Community and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

- It will ensure that long established beneficial uses (including municipal water supply) of the river will not be compromised. This can only be ensured with continued monitoring and testing.
- It will provide much needed data concerning the positive environmental impacts of river restoration projects currently under construction. This includes TMWA’s Glendale Water Supply Improvement Project (which has a streambed restoration component) and the recently completed Pioneer Ditch Diversion Relocation Project, a project supported by TMWA TRF funds.