



FACT SHEET

POSSIBLE INTEGRATION OF TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY AND THE WASHOE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

- The 2007 Western Regional Water Commission Act, passed by the Nevada State Legislature, requires that Truckee Meadows governments evaluate the possibility of consolidating public water providers in Washoe County and include the results of this evaluation in the 2011 update of the Regional Water Management Plan. Although the Act was specific to all public water purveyors in the Truckee Meadows (Truckee Meadows Water Authority, the County's Dept. of Water Resources, Sun Valley and the South Truckee Meadows GIDs), the feasibility evaluation is limited to DWR and TMWA at this time. The act did not affect private well owners.
- In September of 2008, the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC) directed staff, as a first step, to initiate an evaluation of possible integration of Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) and the Washoe County Department of Water Resources (DWR).
- The initial evaluation focused on the status of each agency's debt and potential constraints on a possible merger of agencies arising from legal provisions called covenants that are included in all bonds. The results of this analysis were reported to the WRWC in December 2008.
- The analysis indicated that a phased implementation of some form of integration would be possible with the initial phases focusing on joint operations and management. Transitioning to a full merger would be possible once certain debt obligations were addressed through early bond repayment or refinancing and potentially through transferring state revolving loan fund bonds from one public agency to the other.
- Through the first half of 2009, interagency teams from TMWA and DWR staffs analyzed opportunities for improving customer service and reliability, as well as for reducing current costs or avoiding future costs by managing the TMWA and DWR water systems as one rather than two systems.

- In their Preliminary Assessment Reports for System Planning and Engineering, Operations, and Water Resources Management, interagency staff teams concluded that there are opportunities to achieve long-term benefits for improved customer service, reliability and cost reductions and future cost avoidance through integration.
- The WRWC received presentations about these analyses and accepted these reports at their March and July 2009 meetings.
- At the same time, additional analysis concluded that it is financially feasible over a few years to achieve cost reductions, estimated at \$2 to \$3 million, needed to maintain the financial stability of both organizations as they work towards full integration.
- During the next few months, elected officials in the region will consider whether to proceed with some form of integration of Washoe County's water resources agency with TMWA. To follow along or participate through available opportunities for public comment and other forms of engagement, citizens may monitor posted agendas for items related to this topic at the following links:
 - Truckee Meadows Water Authority: www.tmh2o.com
 - Washoe County Board of Commissioners: www.washoecounty.us/bcc
 - Western Regional Water Commission: www.wrwc.us
- Representatives of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1245, TMWA's bargaining unit, and the Washoe County Employee Association (WCEA), Washoe County's bargaining unit, are engaged in working with employees, agency managers, and elected officials to identify and develop strategies to manage the potential transition of some or all of DWR's employees to a possible integrated organization.
- Elected officials and agency managers have stated in public meetings that any changes to the level or composition of the staffing for a combined agency is expected to occur over time through attrition of staff due to retirements, for example, rather than through initial reductions in staff.