

STAFF REPORT

Date: August 6, 2019

To: Reno City Council, Washoe County Board of Commissioners and Reno Tahoe Airport Authority

Thru: Sabra Newby, City Manager

Subject: **5.3. Staff Report (For Possible Action): Recommendation to take action on and possible approval of an Agreement between Washoe County and the City of Reno for the Stormwater Land Application - American Flat Road Site project located on Washoe County property APN 079-332-36 and 079-332-37 for the purpose of land application of water from Swan Lake.**

From: John Flansberg, Director of Public Works

Summary: The agreement between the City of Reno and Washoe County allows for the City to utilize land owned by Washoe County to apply water from Swan Lake which will increase water volume storage in the lake by lowering the existing lake elevation. The land application of water will result in augmenting the natural evaporative process of water within the closed basin. This solution was discussed at the April 29, 2019 Council and Washoe County Commission Joint Meeting regarding closed basin lake rise and protection measures in the North Valleys.

Background: Washoe County owns APN 079-332-36 and 079-332-37 which are vacant parcels located north of the Reno Stead Airport. The properties are referred to as American Flat and are utilized as a buffer between the airport and residentially zoned properties to the north. Reno and Washoe County staffs have been working jointly on properties that could support land application of water from Swan Lake. Washoe County has taken the lead on properties located east and south of Swan Lake and requested that the City of Reno work on parcels to the west and north adjacent to the Reno Stead Airport.

Discussion: Land application of water from Swan Lake has been an option that Washoe County and the City of Reno have pursued. The American Flat properties provide an opportunity to remove 600 or more acre feet water per year which would result in a half foot drop in lake elevation. The benefit would be realized over two or more years. The possibility to place the parcels into an agricultural use would increase the amount of water applied and provide a greater benefit. This agreement is necessary to move forward with a project and have the option in place by the end of the year.

Financial Implications: Financial implications for the project are included in a separate agenda item.

Legal Implications: The agreement provides for the City to use the County land for the disposal of lake water and/or effluent.

Recommendation: Staff recommends Council approval of the agreement with Washoe County and authorization for the Mayor to sign.

Proposed Motion: I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

- BCC CONCURRENT 08-06-19 -Interlocal Agreement - WC and COR Land Applicat...
(1) 5.4 (PDF)