



City Manager's Office

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 03/21/2023

TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Doug Thornley, City Manager Approved Electronically

FROM: Calli Wilsey, Director of Policy and Strategy
Krysti Smith, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: FY 2024 Community Projects Funding Requests

As a part of the 2024 federal appropriations process, Congress announced Community Project Funding (CPF) requests, formerly referred to as “earmarks,” would return for a third year. This process allows Congress to request funding for projects for government and nonprofit entities.

Each individual member of northern Nevada’s federal delegation accepted applications through the CPF process. Staff reviewed successful applications from previous years and received feedback from the delegation about the competitive process. With this guidance in mind, staff submitted six projects that align with Council priorities and the 2020-2025 strategic plan and that qualify for funding through the specific federal agency accounts that the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have declared to be suitable for requests. The list of projects includes:

Memo Reference No. <i>(See subsequent pages for details)</i>	Project	CPF Requested Amount
1	Swan Lake Irrigation Pipeline Undergrounding for Flood Resilience	\$3,000,000
2	California Building Renovations	\$870,000
3	School Zone Solar Flashing Beacons	\$1,000,000
4	Island 8 Septic to Sewer - Phase 2	\$3,000,000
5	Fire Station 4 Rehabilitation	\$1,500,000
6	Police Department Wellness Program	\$1,500,000

Descriptions of City of Reno 2024 CPF Requests

1 - Swan Lake Irrigation Pipeline Undergrounding for Flood Resilience

CPF Request Amount:

\$3 million

Total Project Cost:

\$4 million

Other Funding Sources:

Sewer Enterprise Fund

Request Summary:

Lemmon Valley saw unprecedented flooding in 2017 due to persistent, record breaking precipitation events that began in fall 2016 resulting in flooded homes, roads, and businesses. Flood mitigation actions such as earthen berms, sandbags, and HESCO flood barriers managed to contain rising lake levels but required significant monitoring and maintenance due to seepage management and was not a complete solution to provide long-term effectiveness for persistently high or potentially increasing lake levels. After three years of threatening lake levels and impacts to private properties and public roadways, a joint meeting with the Washoe County Commission, City of Reno, and the Reno Tahoe Airport Authority was held to discuss options. A temporary overland pipeline was approved for construction to pump water out of Swan Lake for use as irrigation of a 450-acre Washoe County parcel known as American Flat. The project also included a pump, intake system, and irrigation pivots to actively pump water out of Swan Lake during irrigation season and maximizing the available stormwater volume prior to the beginning of each water year (October through September). The American Flat parcel was converted from native vegetation to grass and alfalfa hay for purposes of putting the water to beneficial use.

The temporary pipeline has been effective in lowering lake levels and reducing flood impacts. The City of Reno would like to make this option permanent by undergrounding the existing 18-inch pipeline over the nearly 5 mile length from Swan Lake to the American Flat Farm. It is not practical to leave the pipeline overland due to exposure to the elements and future development of the Reno Stead Airport. This project will create a permanent solution to flood mitigation in Lemmon Valley, increase flood protection for adjacent residents, and reuses materials that were previously purchased at considerable expense to the public.

City of Reno Strategic Plan Goal:

Goal E: Infrastructure, Climate Change, & Environmental Sustainability

2 - California Building Renovations

CPF Request Amount:

\$870,000

Total Project Cost:

\$870,000

Other Funding Sources:

CDBG funds are allocated to support re-roofing the building, and ARPA dollars are allocated for the HVAC system.

Request Summary:

The California Building is an historic building within the City of Reno's Idlewild Park. This building is frequently used for recreational programs, community events, community meetings, and both K-12 and university educational programs. This is a very popular building for the public and that popularity has resulted in signs of significant wear and tear. What we are proposing with this project is a major interior renovation with repair work and expansion to the exterior that will both expand and ensure the capability of this building to continue to serve our community. The project includes remodeling of the kitchen, office space, adding a bathroom, and repairing the concrete patio and shade structure.

This CDBG-eligible project will rehabilitate a multi-functional public facility that provides a space not only for community events, but educational services as well. Further, this building and the events and services hosted at this building primarily service low- and moderate-income households. According to the Office of Policy Development and Research's Map of Low to Moderate Income Population by Block Group, 73.3% of the households within the same community block group as the California Building are households of low- and moderate-income and the adjacent block groups have on average 54.2% households of low- and moderate-income.

City of Reno Strategic Plan Goal:

Goal F: Arts, Parks, & Historical Resources

3 - School Zone Solar Flashing Beacons

CPF Request Amount:

\$1 million

Total Project Cost:

\$1 million

Other Funding Sources:

We are working with community partners like Washoe County School District to pursue funding through the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside program as well.

Request Summary:

This funding would be used to purchase and install solar school zone flashing beacons systems to bring legacy school zones up to current safety standards. Flashing school zone signs are active traffic control devices that can help condition motorists to change their behavior when the devices are activated. There are currently 151 designated school zone segments within Reno city limits without school zone flashers. Each side mount system costs \$20,000 and each overhead system for a larger roadway costs \$80,000, bringing the total cost to over \$4.5 million. Based on a safety evaluation of all school zones and prioritized by CDBG eligibility, the City is requesting \$1 million in funding to purchase and install school zone flashers in the 56 CDBG-eligible school zones needing safety improvements.

In the 2019-2020 school year, there were 28 crashes involving students within school zones in Washoe County. The Federal Highway Administration's Crash Modification Factor (CMF) Clearinghouse references one Florida study that shows a 15 percent reduction in total crashes associated with installation of school zone flashers. Over time, the City of Reno has a goal of installing solar school zone flashing beacons in every school zone.

City of Reno Strategic Plan Goal:

Goal B: Public Safety

4 - Island 8 Septic to Sewer Phase 2

CPF Request Amount:

\$3 million

Total Project Cost:

\$10.3 million

Other Funding Sources:

\$1 million through the FY22 CPF process (EPA grant)

City of Reno Sewer Enterprise Fund for Capital Projects

Request Summary:

This project will allow approximately 110 homes to be able to connect to City sewer and to get off private septic systems. The availability of City sewer in the neighborhood will reduce liability to the homeowner from being red tagged if their septic tank fails and their home is deemed uninhabitable by the health department. The benefit of this project is that the City sewer will be available to the residents and homeowners if and when their septic system fails. Septic system failures are extremely costly and detrimental to the groundwater supply. In some cases, it can cost the homeowner up to \$200,000 to replace their septic system and require

them to be out of their home during repair/replacement. If City sewer is available in the area, the cost would be much less to the homeowner and would avoid their home being uninhabitable and red tagged. This is important in this low-moderate income neighborhood, because they would likely not be able to afford the full cost of bringing City sewer to the area and replacing their septic system. The City believes this area would benefit greatly by being served with City sewer infrastructure and decommissioning of septic systems with the ultimate goal of improving groundwater supply.

City of Reno Strategic Plan Goal:

Goal E: Infrastructure, Climate Change, & Environmental Sustainability

5 - Fire Station 4 Rehabilitation

CPF Request Amount:

\$1.5 million

Total Project Cost:

\$1.5 million

Other Funding Sources:

Capital Projects Fund

Request Summary:

This project will stabilize the foundation at the City of Reno's Fire Station 4. This will require major work to be performed along the south side of the property where the foundation is shifting. Unfortunately, the fire station was built in a part of Reno with a poor soil type for buildings and has led to compaction issues since it was built in the mid-1980s. As a result, the southern half of the building is shifting to the south while the northern half remains in place. Additionally, the destabilization of the foundation caused by the unstable soil is a seismic risk. This project will require utilities to be rerouted and a major trench to be dug before installing an underground retaining wall. By building a retaining wall, the building will be stabilized and the fire station can continue to support our community.

City of Reno Strategic Plan Goal:

Goal B: Public Safety

6 - Police Department Wellness Project

CPF Request Amount:

\$1.5 million

Total Project Cost:

\$1.5 million

Other Funding Sources:

None

Request Summary:

The City of Reno Police Department Wellness Project would enhance the peer mentoring mental health and wellness program within the department. This project would include three major components, each designed to increase individual and departmental awareness of a mentally and physically healthy and resilient workforce. The funds would be used for the design and development of a state-of-the-art fitness area in the Public Safety Center, a wellness speaker series, and inclusion of various occupational therapies and resources to serve Reno Police Department personnel's' mental and physical health needs. The effect of stress in the law enforcement profession is evidenced by the augmented levels of absenteeism, burnout, and addictive behaviors. With the enrichment of the wellness program, the department will heavily focus on the mental health of its personnel, prioritizing the mental and physical health of personnel who are beginning their careers to those personnel days away from retirement.

City of Reno Strategic Plan Goal:

Goal B: Public Safety