



# City Manager's Office

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** 10/6/2023

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**THROUGH:** Doug Thornley, City Manager Approved Electronically

**FROM:** Kayla Garcia, Management Analyst, Regional Infrastructure

**SUBJECT:** Nevada Water Conservation and Infrastructure Initiative Grants

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The Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (NDCNR) announced that they will be awarding \$100M in grant funds for water and sewer projects through the Nevada Water Conservation and Infrastructure Initiative (NWCII) using the State's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies. One of the requirements of the grant was that the ARPA money must be spent by September of 2026. City of Reno staff identified 3 projects that qualified for the funding and could meet the strict timeline requirements of the grant funding. The City submitted grant applications for Island 18 Septic to Sewer Conversion Project, Phase 2 Chalk Creek Channel Restoration, and TMWRF Gas Conditioning System Improvements in August 2023. The grant required that the applicants provide a resolution signed by City Council stating the need for the funding for the projects and designate two individuals as authorized representatives for the contracts.

The resolution was adopted by the Council on September 13, 2023.

The NWCII grant opportunity was an extremely competitive application process with the State receiving 81 applications totaling \$541M. Staff received notification from the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources on September 14, 2023 that none of the projects submitted by the City were selected. Please see attached letters and list of NWCII grant awards.

Grant Awardee	Project Name	Brief Project Summary	Grant Award
Humboldt County	Grass Valley Nitrate	The federal maximum contaminant level (MCL) for nitrates in groundwater is 10 milligrams/liter (mg/L). Nitrate levels exceeding 10 mg/L can be linked to a variety of side effects including a lack of oxygen in the blood circulatory system with infants and pregnant women being the most at risk. The extent and severity of possible side effects will differ for each person affected. Water samples taken from Grass Valley have shown multiple instances of exceeding the nitrate MCL. This project will provide funding for design and engineering of a wastewater collection system to deliver effluent to a wastewater treatment facility. Through the elimination of septic systems within the area nitrate levels will drawdown over time.	\$5,000,000
Baker Water & Sewer	LCRA Water Project	Lehman Creek Residential Area in White Pine County does not have public utility infrastructure. Existing homes rely on private wells to provide potable water. Many of these wells are failing to provide sufficient water to meet daily needs. This project would design and construct a public drinking water system consisting of wells, transmission pipelines, storage tanks, distribution pipelines and other water system elements to provide this community with a reliable and safe water source.	\$1,662,657
Southern Nevada Water Authority	Water Smart Landscapes Topper	Drought conditions in the Colorado River threaten water supplies. Nearly all water used indoors is returned to the Colorado River system for return flow credits. This extends NV's Colorado water supply by nearly 70%. Outdoor water use cannot be recovered. Lawns consumes 73 gallons of water per square foot annually. Program conversions would consume only 17 gallons per square foot per year. The program will reduce water use by ~76%. Curbing consumptive use will increase Colorado River conservation to protect our water supply. 5,000 acres of turf remain in the service are. This project would support conversion. Reducing nonfunctional turf by 150 acres annually could halve turf by 2035, saving more than six billion gallons of water annually.	\$24,000,000
Nevada Division of State Parks	Nevada Division of State Parks Water & Sewer Improvements	The Nevada Division of State Parks (NDSP) currently has water and wastewater systems that do not comply with Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A and do not meet state and federal water and wastewater standards. This project will design, improve, and replace wastewater and drinking water facilities at NDSP to comply with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection code requirements and the Clean Water Act while ensuring the safety of visitors and protecting these sensitive natural resources.	\$7,050,000
Nevada Western Heritage Alliance	RSLEC Water Infrastructure Improvements	The existing drinking water system at the Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center (RSLEC) is composed of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) constructed in the late 1970s. The ACP throughout the RSLEC is over its useful life which can lead to leaks, failure, or release of asbestos fibers from the deteriorated pipes into the water supply. The EPA lists ACP as a toxic material which can cause health impacts if ingested. In addition to the replacement of ACP throughout the RSLEC water and wastewater system, this project will address wastewater and stormwater collection. This will ensure the proper management of wastewater and stormwater.	\$5,500,000
Truckee Meadows Water Authority	TMWA Advanced Meter Infrastructure	Many water meters in the Truckee Meadows Water Authority's (TMWA) system are over their 20-year life expectancy. In addition to older meters limitations, consolidations with other water systems require a standardization across the system to ensure water conservation. This project will increase efficiency and allow TMWA to identify water conservation opportunities. The installation of 66,000 new meters should increase water conservation by 2-10%. Once the AMI system is completed, it will allow TMWA to monitor for leaks, excess water use, and outdoor water use violations, increasing overall system efficiency.	\$9,500,000
Town of Tonopah	Replace Galvanized & Lead Pipe	This project would replace approximately 2700 feet of 3" to 4" galvanized and lead water lines with 8" water lines. The replacement project will ensure the safety of Tonopah's water supply while eliminating water loss in the system through leaks. This project will also bring this system into compliance with NAC 445A.67115, NAC 445.671 and NAC 445.67125.	\$1,876,280
Churchill County	Secondary Water Treatment Plant	This project would provide funding to support the design, engineering, and construction of a 1,000gpm secondary water treatment facility to treat ground water for arsenic and manganese for domestic use. The current system has insufficient redundancy and is undersized to provide safe drinking water for current and future development. This system would move current well users over to a municipal water system in addition to providing system redundancy and meeting community demand.	\$6,000,000
Southern Nevada Water Authority	Septic Conversion Program	Grant funding would be matched with existing federal grant and local funding to increase the impact of the Septic to Sewer Conversion Program. SNWA is currently procuring contactors to complete conversions and is performing a strategic mapping analysis of all existing permitted septic systems to identify clusters of conversions that will lead to cost efficiencies. The need vastly outweighs current funding: early data shows that nearly 3,500 targeted septic systems are within 50 feet of an existing sewer line and would be candidates for the initial phase of the program. Grant funding would support up to 250 additional conversions. A single conversion will save approximately 0.24-acre feet of water per year in perpetuity.	\$5,000,000
Silver Springs General Improvement District	SSGID Aeration Improvements	This funding will be used to replace the aeration system equipment at the Silver Spring GID Wastewater Treatment Plant. This infrastructure is approaching 20 years old, has exceeded its useful life, and is starting to fail. The aeration system is an extended aeration, activated sludge treatment system that is highly effective at removing BOD, TSS, and nitrogen. This project addresses critical structural elements that need to be mitigated to ensure continued compliance with the regulatory requirements of the NDEP discharge permit and the Clean Water Act.	\$662,181
Eureka County	Kobeh Valley Transmission Line	Water supplied to the town of Eureka is obtained through groundwater wells located in Diamond Valley. Water rights for the town are junior rights, appropriated after the senior agricultural rights in Diamond Valley. It is well documented that Diamond Valley is over appropriated and that the groundwater levels in the basin are declining. The basin is under increasingly strict groundwater management that may jeopardize the water rights relied on by the town of Eureka. This project would supplement the water system with a new, separate ground water source from a new municipal well to be drilled in Kobeh Valley. The project would include the design and engineering of a transmission main from Kobeh Valley to County's water system.	\$2,500,000
Gabbs Water System	Gabbs Water System Improvements	The Gabbs Water System is currently comprised of small old diameter pipe in North and South Gabbs. Replacement of this pipe is critical to increase system reliability, pressure, and safety. The replacement of this pipe should conserve 200,000 gallons per year due to existing leaks and increase system safety.	\$3,873,038.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$72,624,156</b>