



City Manager's Office

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 16, 2024

TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Doug Thornley, City Manager Approved Electronically

FROM: Nathan Ullyot, Parks and Recreation Director
Cynthia Esparza, Chief Equity and Community Relations Officer

SUBJECT: Truckee River Flood Management Authority Park Ranger Funding

Background

In 2022, the Truckee River Flood Management Project (TRFMA) budgeted funds to support the City of Reno Park Rangers program in the amount not to exceed \$200,000 for up to 20% per Park Ranger. Park Rangers serving along the river would be called River Rangers. Since 2022, the City of Reno staff have been attempting to finalize the funding agreement with TRFMA staff. City of Reno staff have consistently requested a direct allocation to the City of Reno to fund two full time River Rangers (a Park Ranger whose sole function is to patrol the river). TRFMA staff have only been willing to fund 20% of each already funded City of Reno Park Ranger's salary, benefits, and equipment. TRFMA staff's rationale is because TRFMA owns 20% of the Truckee River land frontage, TRFMA should only pay for 20% of each City of Reno Park Ranger's salary, benefits, and equipment. City of Reno staff disagree with this analysis. Rather, City of Reno staff believe River Rangers anywhere on the Truckee River contribute to flood prevention throughout the Truckee River flood areas and specifically the downstream impacts to TRFMA's property. Therefore, TRFMA could legally and should support all River Rangers (currently there are none but the need is at least six), yet the City of Reno has only requested TRFMA pay for two River Rangers.

Recent Actions

During the April 12, 2024 TRFMA board meeting, the City of Reno proposed a \$250,000 annual payment from TRFMA to the City of Reno to pay for two full time River Rangers. During the meeting, there was not a motion to approve the proposal, including discussion of potential terms. Instead, the motion was to direct TRFMA and City of Reno staff to finalize a draft interlocal agreement for possible consideration by the TRFMA Board of Directors.

Next Steps

While the effort and position of the TRFMA staff is appreciated, City of Reno staff will again ask that TRFMA staff the following:

1. Fund two full time River Rangers salary, benefits, and equipment in the amount of \$250,000 annually, with a 10% annual increase, beginning July 2025, to cover increased annual expenses, such as merit, benefits, PERS, and supply increases effective July 1, 2024.
2. The River Rangers will be dedicated to the Truckee River and their functions will include:
 - a. Walking patrols along the Truckee River within City of Reno boundaries and TRFMA owned land; seven days a week from the hours of 6am to 8pm (winter) and 6am to 10pm (summer);
 - b. Identify potential debris in the Truckee River;
 - c. Cleaning trash;
 - d. Identifying graffiti;
 - e. Requesting encampment outreach, as needed;
 - f. Clearing encampments;
 - g. Reporting problems to Reno Direct;
 - h. Acting as a City of Reno guide to residents and tourists;
 - i. Initial responder for non-criminal/health crisis issues; and
 - j. Leading natural resource education and engagement programming.
 - i. Fishing, astronomy, plant and animal life, vegetation management
3. Put this item on the next TRFMA agenda on May 10, 2024, for a vote.

If approved, the Parks and Recreation staff will bring the agreement forward for approval during the June 5, 2024 City of Reno Council meeting and ask for an additional two River Rangers to be included in the FY25 City of Reno budget.