

STAFF REPORT

Date: December 4, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, Interim City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Acceptance of donation from Wild Horse Connection to support the Horse Protection Project South Phase including the purchase and installation of horse fencing in the amount of \$15,000.

From: John Flansberg, Regional Infrastructure Administrator

Department: City Manager's Office – Council Donations

Summary:

Wild Horse Connection has offered a private donation in the amount of \$15,000 to the Horse Protection Project South Phase (continuous fence from Carmella Ranch to Toll Road and extending to near South Virginia) for the purchase and installment of horse fencing. Accepting this donation meets the following goals laid out in the City's Strategic Plan: 1) Public Safety and 2) Economic and Community Development. Staff recommends Council accept the donation.

Consent Review	Yes	No
1. Is this item an annual or standard item that comes before Council for regular approval?	X	
2. Is this item an agreement required based on an item previously approved by Council?		X
3. Is this item included in the current budget approved and adopted by Council?	X	
Other Considerations		
What percent of the total City budget does this item represent?	N/A	

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Public Safety

Economic and Community Development

Previous Council Action:

June 12, 2024 – Council approved \$315,000 from Contingency funding for the Horse Protection Project South Phase.

Background:

On November 12, 2024, the City Manager's Office received an email from Tracy Wilson, Liaison and Volunteer with Wild Horse Connection, offering to generously donate \$15,000 to the Horse Protection Project South Phase.

Wild Horse Connection's mission is to keep the wild horses of the Virginia Range free by educating the community about living with Mustangs and rescuing those that have been removed from the range. Wild Horse Connection works with the Nevada Department of Agriculture, City, County, Law Enforcement, Developers and land owners to achieve their mission.

Discussion:

On July 31, 2024, City Council approved the award of construction contract to Soil-Tech, Inc. to install or repair fencing for an amount not to exceed \$457,188.70. The project award included will be completed in December 2024. Funding for this project came from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocated to the City of Reno for Virginia Range Horses Fencing and Contingency Funds.

Regional Infrastructure staff and the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) are in the process of developing an interlocal agreement for reimbursement of expenses relating to fencing and cattleguard installation on State Route 341 (Geiger Grade). This work is planned as part of the Horse Protection Project South Phase to provide a continuous fence from Carmella Ranch to Toll Road and extending to near South Virginia. The exact location of fencing is to be determined in conjunction with the assistance of NDOT, Washoe County, and adjacent property owners.

Wild Horse Connection has generously offered a donation in the amount of \$15,000 to assist in the cost to furnish and install horse fencing.

Financial Implications:

The donation will be used to offset cost of the construction project to furnish and install horse fencing and cattleguards where needed.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed with compliance with City procedures and Nevada law. The funds may only be used for the purchase and installation of wild horse fencing.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council accept the donation.

Proposed Motion:

I move to accept the donation.

Attachments:

Donation letter from Wild Horse Connection