

STAFF REPORT

Date: February 26, 2025

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of Agreement with DOWL, LLC for geologic and geotechnical services including a seismicity evaluation in support of the West Wash Dam Rehabilitation Project in an amount not to exceed \$321,559. (Sewer Fund Passthrough, Grant Funding) [Ward 5]

From: Jon Simpson, Engineering Manager

Department: Utility Services

Summary:

This agreement with DOWL, LLC will provide a geologic and geotechnical evaluation for the Environmental Assessment (EA) and design for the West Wash Dam Rehabilitation Project. In April of 2020 Council accepted a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for the planning and design of the West Wash Dam rehabilitation in northwest Reno. The NRCS grant will cover 100 percent of the planning and design of the West Wash Dam Rehabilitation Project. DOWL was previously contracted to perform a watershed analysis and produce a draft EA. During the initial EA review, NRCS determined that a geotechnical / seismicity evaluation is warranted to fully evaluate the structure, spillway, and determine the extent of the rehabilitation of the structure. The DOWL agreement will provide geotechnical investigation and a seismicity evaluation to support finalizing the EA. The NRCS grant will reimburse Reno 100 percent of the cost of DOWL's services. Staff recommends Council approve the agreement with DOWL for \$321,559. (Sewer Fund with 100 percent reimbursement from the NRCS grant for this phase)

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?	<1%	

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability
Public Safety

Previous Council Action:

October 28, 2020 – Council approved an agreement with Farr West Engineering (currently DOWL LLC) for the West Wash Dam Rehabilitation Project Watershed Analysis and Environmental Assessment in the amount of \$647,209.

March 25, 2020 - Council approved the Acceptance of Grant Award for the West Wash Dam Rehabilitation Project from the Natural Resource Conservation Service in the amount of \$2,812,000

Background:

The West Wash Dam is one of four flood control detention dams located at the base of Peavine Mountain. The dam, an earthen embankment structure, originally constructed by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in the 1960's to provide flood protection. The SCS later became the NRCS. The dam is owned and maintained by the City of Reno. The West Wash Dam has not undergone any significant retrofit or improvement since the original construction over 60 years ago. The State Engineer's Office classified the West Wash Dam as a "high hazard dam" and should be a priority for evaluation and rehabilitation.

In 2015, the NRCS notified the City that the West Wash Dam Rehabilitation Project was selected to receive Federal funding under a FWRP grant award. During an extension request made in March 2019, a new agreement with NRCS included Federal funding in the amount of \$2,812,000. The NRCS grant funded 100 percent of all planning, design, and construction contract administration work. The eventual construction project will require a 35 percent local match which may be a combination of local funding and in-kind services expended toward the project. The grant agreement has Reno managing and contracting the planning and design portion of the of the project, NRCS reimburses Reno for the cost of this work.

The primary work scope includes evaluation and improvements to the dam and emergency spillway to contain a probable maximum flood based upon current hydrology for the upstream watershed, which has seen considerable development since construction of the dam in 1960. Additionally, the scope will include various dam retrofits to bring the dam into compliance with current construction and dam safety standards.

Discussion:

In 2020, the City contracted DOWL to provide a watershed study, including hydraulic, hydrologic, and sediment analysis necessary for providing a design assessment and possible rehabilitation options for the dam. DOWL produced and submitted an EA as required as part of the federal grant. During the review period, it was determined, in order to completely evaluate the structure, spillway, and the full extent of rehabilitation, that a geotechnical/seismicity evaluation would need to be completed. These services will provide geological and geotechnical analyses, including drilling and excavation services, sample laboratory analyses, special geotechnical analyses services as required, CCTV services for principal spillway inspections, an updated sediment transport analysis, and a seismicity evaluation. Upon completion and approval of the EA, staff will return to Council for future phases of design and construction. In conjunction with this item, Council will also see two amendments to the NRCS agreement, one for extending the grant an additional 18 months, and the second to increase the grant funding for the cost of the geotechnical services included in this agreement with DOWL.

Financial Implications:

Reno will pay \$321,559 from the Sewer Fund and seek 100 percent reimbursement for the geotechnical services per the terms of the NRCS grant award.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law. The City is required to comply with the terms of the NRCS grant reporting requirements, and DOWL agreement.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve the agreement with DOWL LLC in support of the West Wash Dam Rehabilitation Project - for geologic and geotechnical services including a seismicity investigation in the amount not to exceed \$321,559 and authorize the Mayor to sign.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation

Attachments:

DOWL Agreement West Wash Geotechnical Services