

## STAFF REPORT

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**Date:** November 8, 2023

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**Thru:** Doug Thornley, City Manager

**Subject:** Staff Report (For Possible Action): Acceptance of a subaward from The Envirolution, Inc. (Envirolution) for a geothermal education program at the Moana Springs Community Aquatics & Fitness Center in the amount of \$5,000.

**From:** Suzanne Groneman

**Department:** City Manager's Office

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**Summary:**

Envirolution, through their Project ReCharge Program, will award the City of Reno a \$5,000 sub-grant to acquire an intern who will support geothermal lesson(s) and will also facilitate collaboration with Project ReCharge staff, students, and renewable energy professionals to help with the development of student-driven educational materials that will be integrated into the new Moana Springs Community Aquatics & Fitness Center. The grant funds were awarded to Envirolution from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to expand their curriculum to include geothermal education.

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability  
Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources

**Previous Council Action:**

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

**Background:**

The City of Reno partnered with Envirolution for a grant application to expand the Project ReCharge Program to include geothermal education. Project ReCharge is a formal hands-on, project-based STEAM curriculum and training program dedicated to educating and preparing students to become future sustainability and environmental leaders. Project ReCharge meets the definition of environmental education by providing teachers with a comprehensive and robust curriculum, valuable in-person or virtual professional learning, and hands-on

classroom materials, all focused on sustainability, environmentalism, and energy efficiency. Project ReCharge inspires and empowers teachers, students, and community professionals to work together to take action in the sustainable development of our society and the protection of our environment. Students utilize learned STEAM concepts while working alongside community professionals to gain real-world skills by performing energy audits on their school and developing sustainability projects that reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions. In addition, Project ReCharge will provide Northern Nevada students the opportunity to collaborate with the City of Reno employees and renewable energy industry professionals to develop two educational resources to be integrated into the new community pool.

**Discussion:**

Envirovolution is awarding \$22,500 of the EPA grant to five sub-recipients involved in contributing to the success of this project. Envirovolution will collaborate with three master teachers at local school districts including Washoe County, Carson City, and Lyon County, who will be responsible for helping to facilitate in-person and virtual professional learning sessions as well as helping to develop and revise Project ReCharge lessons focused on geothermal energy, transportation/electric vehicles, and sustainability. Master teachers will receive a total of \$5,000 for their contribution. Envirovolution will award the City of Reno \$5,000 to acquire an intern who will support the geothermal lesson and will also facilitate collaboration with Project ReCharge staff, students, and renewable energy professionals to help with the development of student-driven educational materials that will be integrated into the new pool. Lastly, Envirovolution will award \$2,500 to a local Nevada independent design contractor for their involvement in collaborating with Envirovolution staff and Northern Nevada students to develop and design the educational materials that will be used in the new community pool.

**Financial Implications:**

The City will receive \$5,000 from Envirovolution to acquire an intern who will support the geothermal lesson and will facilitate collaboration with Project ReCharge staff, students, and renewable energy professionals to help with the development of student-driven educational materials.

**Legal Implications:**

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends Council accept the subaward from The Envirovolution, Inc. (Envirovolution) for a geothermal education program at the Moana Springs Community Aquatics & Fitness Center in the amount of \$5,000, and authorization for the City Manager to sign award documents.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move to approve staff recommendation.

**Attachments:**

Federal Grant Subaward Contract