

STAFF REPORT

Date: November 13, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, Interim City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Acceptance of Washoe County, State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding in the amount of \$200,000, and approval of a sub-recipient agreement between the City of Reno and Washoe County to utilize the ARPA funding in support of the City’s Park Ranger Program along the Truckee River corridor.

From: Damaris McGlone-Eymard, Management Analyst

Department: Parks and Recreation

Summary:

At the Board of County Commissioners Meeting on August 20, 2024, the Board approved item 19.8, authorizing \$200,000 in funding for the Truckee River Rangers Program. This initiative aims to enhance the consistency of patrols, programming, and citizen engagement along the Truckee River Corridor. The Board also adopted Resolution 23-177, which authorizes the grant of ARPA funds to the City of Reno for this purpose. The proposed agreement will formalize the partnership between Washoe County and the City of Reno to support the ongoing efforts to protect and maintain the Truckee River corridor. The pending Subgrant Agreement is authorized to be signed by the County Manager and the City of Reno.

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?	0.00%	

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Economic Opportunity, Homelessness, and Affordable Housing
Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability
Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources
Public Safety

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

Background:

The Truckee River is a critical natural resource for the City of Reno and surrounding communities, providing the majority of water to the Truckee Meadows. In recent years, the City of Reno has faced significant challenges along the Truckee River corridor, including issues related to trespassing, homeless encampments, dumping, vandalism, and pollution. These activities threaten the environmental integrity of the river and detract from its scenic beauty. To address these challenges, the City of Reno established the Truckee River Rangers Program. The Rangers are tasked with patrolling and securing the Truckee River corridor, ensuring that the area remains safe and clean for both residents and visitors.

Washoe County, recognizing the importance of maintaining the Truckee River corridor, has agreed to provide financial support for the Truckee River Rangers Program. The County will contribute \$200,000 from its allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to assist in funding these positions for FY 2024/2025. The funding is intended to expand patrol consistency, improve programming, and enhance citizen engagement along the Truckee River, addressing public health and safety concerns exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Discussion:

Under the proposed agreement, Washoe County will contribute \$200,000 from ARPA funds to support the salaries and benefits of the Truckee River Rangers who patrol the Truckee River corridor within the City of Reno. The Truckee River Rangers will patrol the river corridor, including areas of Washoe County-owned property, at least five times per week. They will be authorized to issue citations for violations of City of Reno ordinances and will work to mitigate activities that threaten the river's environmental health. This partnership between Washoe County and the City of Reno is essential to maintaining the environmental integrity and safety of the Truckee River, benefiting both the community and the local ecosystem.

Project Scope and Objectives: The Truckee River Rangers will patrol the River Corridor within the City of Reno boundaries seven days a week. Patrol hours will be from 6 am to 7 pm from October to March, and 5 am to 10 pm from April to September. The Rangers will also be responsible for increasing program activation in river parks and plazas, ensuring better cleanliness through enhanced waste management, connecting individuals in need with human

services, and supporting special events in downtown park and river spaces.

Funding and Implementation: Under the proposed agreement, Washoe County will contribute \$200,000 from ARPA funds to support the salaries and benefits of the Truckee River Rangers for FY 2024/2025. This funding will cover the cost of one additional full-time Park/River Ranger for the calendar years 2025 and 2026, in line with ARPA funding guidelines.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): The Truckee River Rangers Program will track several key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure success. These KPIs will be tracked monthly and shared with the public to ensure transparency and accountability.

- Public Service Requests: Number of requests for service and the response provided.
- Area Standards: Evaluating if parks and river areas meet established cleanliness and safety standards.
- Engagements: Tracking interactions with individuals, including both positive engagements and corrective actions.
- Citations and Warnings: Monitoring the issuance of citations and warnings for non-compliance with park regulations.
- Service Referrals: Recording connections made between individuals and human services.
- Debris Removal: Quantifying the amount of waste removed from the park and river areas.

Financial Implications:

The agreement will provide the City of Reno with \$200,000 from Washoe County's ARPA funds for the FY 2024/2025 Truckee River Rangers Program. This funding will support the ongoing salaries and benefits of the Rangers who patrol the Truckee River corridor. Any unspent funds will either be returned to Washoe County or credited towards the next fiscal year's funding obligations.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law. The agreement has been reviewed and approved as to form by the City Attorney's Office. Additionally, the grant aligns with the requirements set forth under ARPA, ensuring that the funds are used effectively to address public health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve the agreement between the City of Reno and Washoe County for the joint funding of the Truckee River Rangers Program, with Washoe County contributing \$200,000 from ARPA funds for FY 2024/2025.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve the agreement between the City of Reno and Washoe County for the funding of the Park Ranger Program along the Truckee River corridor, with a contribution from Washoe County of \$200,000 from ARPA funds for FY 2024/2025.

Attachments:

Washoe County Resolution R23-177

Washoe County August 20, 2024, Agenda

Washoe County Subgrant Agreement \$200,000