

STAFF REPORT

Date: February 14, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of an Interlocal Agreement with Washoe County for reimbursement of 50% of the cost of the professional services agreement with HDR Engineering associated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood map updates, known as the “Risk Map,” for an amount not to exceed \$79,343.50.

From: Joe Coudriet, Senior Civil Engineer

Department: Utility Services

Summary:

Under a separate agenda item on February 14, 2024, Council is considering approval of an agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) for professional services associated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood map updates, known as the “Risk Map,” in an amount not to exceed \$158,687. Washoe County has agreed to reimburse the City of Reno \$79,343.50 for this work (50/50 split). Staff recommends Council approve the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Washoe County for these services, in an amount not to exceed \$79,343.50.

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?		0.009%

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

Background:

In coordination with City staff, FEMA Region IX began the process of updating its flood maps for select areas within the City of Reno and unincorporated Washoe County (outside of the Truckee River) in 2019. The areas of proposed remapping with the City of Reno are limited to reaches of White's Creek, Thomas Creek, Dry Creek, and Double Diamond Creek. Staff reviewed the proposed changes as well as the technical basis for the changes (hydrology and hydraulics). Staff also sought additional technical input from HDR via an On-Call contract. Subsequently, staff and HDR approached the FEMA technical team with a request for modifications to the technical approaches in order to provide the most accurate and defensible flood maps, especially for areas in close proximity to existing buildings. FEMA stated that due to a lack of funding, it would only be able to include the changes if provided to FEMA as a completed package, along with all the required modeling and documentation. Due to the nature of the proposed remapping, there is a substantial amount of land area where both unincorporated Washoe County and the City of Reno have similar concerns. City of Reno and Washoe County staff determined that this effort of working on modifications to the proposed FEMA flood maps could be done jointly, resulting in reduced effort and costs.

Discussion:

City of Reno and Washoe County staff propose that City of Reno staff manage an agreement with HDR in order to provide refined modeling and mapping and that the work by HDR be funded 50/50 by each agency via an ILA for reimbursement. An agreement with HDR for professional services is being considered for approval by Council under a separate agenda item on February 14, 2024. If approved by Council, the attached ILA with Washoe County will allow for reimbursement of this work in an amount not to exceed \$79,343.50 (total professional services not to exceed \$158,687).

The revisions recommended by staff will ensure that as future development occurs in the watershed, developers and their engineers will be able to accurately update and modify the FEMA flood maps. At the same time, the methodology proposed by staff will rely on methodologies typical for this area that are currently detailed in the Truckee Meadows Regional Drainage Manual. This will help to provide a smooth implementation of any future development-driven flood map changes and relies on existing methodologies. This project is well suited for an ILA, as there are efficiencies and cost savings associated with a single cooperative effort between Washoe County and the City.

Financial Implications:

Council is considering approval of an agreement with HDR for the work described above, under a separate agenda item on February 14, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$158,687 (Sewer Fund). Washoe County has agreed to reimburse the City of Reno in an amount not to exceed \$79,343.50 (Sewer Fund) for this work, which has a total cost of \$158,687 (Sewer Fund).

Legal Implications:

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

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve the Interlocal Agreement with Washoe County.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

Reimbursement ILA with WC Risk Map