

STAFF REPORT

Date: February 26, 2025

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of two amendments to the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service Grant Award Agreements for an 18-month time extension, Amendment No. 1, and a \$321,559 increase in the grant amount, Amendment No. 2, for a total grant award of \$3,133,559 to be used for the West Wash Dam Rehabilitation Project. [Ward 5]

From: Jon Simpson, Engineering Manager

Department: Utility Services

Summary:

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has authorized a United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service Grant to the City of Reno (Reno) to improve and rehabilitate the West Wash Dam in northwest Reno. The original federal funded grant award is in the amount of \$2,812,000. This item includes two amendments, an 18-month time extension and authorization of an additional \$321,559 in funding for a geotechnical evaluation as required for the Environmental Assessment. Staff recommends Council approve Amendment 1 and 2 of the NRCS grant for the West Wash Dam Rehabilitation Project and authorization for the Mayor to sign the attached Notice of Grant and Agreement Award.

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
Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability

Previous Council Action:

October 28, 2020 – Council approved an agreement with Farr West Engineering (currently Dowl Engineer) 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 1960 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 in 1960. Additionally, the scope will include various dam retrofits to bring the dam in compliance with current construction and dam safety standards.

Discussion:

Reno staff and its consultant, Dowl, LLC, have completed a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and a watershed study, which included hydraulic, hydrologic, and sediment analysis for West Wash Rehabilitation Dam Project. During the review period of the EA, it was determined

that a geotechnical/seismicity evaluation was warranted to fully evaluate the structure, spillway as to determine the extent of the needed rehabilitation of the structure. Amendment 1 is an 18-month time extension to extend the agreement allowing time to complete the EA. Because the Grant reimburses Reno for the planning, design, and construction administration, Amendment 2 adds an additional \$321,559 amount to the grant funding for the geotechnical services required for the EA. The amended grant funding increases the total of grant amount to \$3,133,559. Upon completion and approval of the EA, staff will return to Council for future phases of design, from the selected alternative, and construction. In conjunction with this item, Council will also see the agreement with DOWL for the geotechnical services and seismicity.

Financial Implications:

No funding allocation will be required to accept the grant Amendments 1 and 2.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with State and Federal law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve Amendment 1 and Amendment 2 of the NRCS Grant in support of the West Wash Dam Rehabilitation Project for the extension of time and increase of the overall grant funding for the Geologic and Geotechnical Services and authorize the Mayor to sign.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

Amendment 1_NRCS_West Wash Dam.pdf

Amendment 2_NRCS_West Wash Dam.pdf