

## STAFF REPORT

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**Date:** February 22, 2023

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**Through:** Doug Thornley, City Manager

**Subject:** Staff Report (For Possible Action): Presentation and discussion on an increase to the amount of sewer capacity at Reno Stead Water Reclamation Facility from the flow shave project in the amount of 125,000 gallons through the Sewer Capacity Allocation Program.

**From:** John Flansberg, Regional Infrastructure Administrator

**Department:** Regional Infrastructure

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### **Summary:**

The Reno Stead Water Reclamation Facility (RSWRF) is under a sewer capacity allocation program due to limited sewer capacity at this location. Although the RSWRF expansion project (water in) has been completed, sewer capacity will remain limited until the Advanced Purified Water Facility (APWF) project (water out) functions to the point that water is being delivered for beneficial use. A short term capacity project was previously constructed that diverts or “shaves” the raw sewage flow from headworks to a pipe that is used to pump sludge to TMWRF for processing. This project provides up to 500,000 gallons of sewer capacity and Council has authorized use of 225,000 gallons to date. As of January 30, 2023, there are 31,528 gallons of sewer capacity or 191 equivalent residential units that could be authorized for use through sewer will-serve letters. Staff recommends that an additional 125,000 gallons of the flow shave sewer capacity be authorized for use at RSWRF to allow development projects to continue which would leave 150,000 gallons to be held in reserve for future consideration by Council when needed. RSWRF’s average flow for 2022 was 1.9 MGD whereas the total flow allocated to date is 2.194 MGD. It typically takes 18-24 months for projects granted will-serve letters to begin contributing their flows to the facility.

### **Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability

### **Previous Council Action:**

June 1, 2022 – Council approved the use of an additional 100,000 gallons of flow shave capacity for a total of 225,000 gallons of the 500,000 gallons of overall capacity.

November 4, 2020 – Council approved the use of an additional 50,000 gallons of flow shave capacity for a total of 125,000 gallons of the 500,000 gallons of overall capacity.

September 11, 2019 – Council approved the use of up to 15 percent of the 500,000 gallon flow shave capacity or 75,000 gallons of sewer capacity for growth.

August 5, 2019 – Council comprehensively evaluated water and flood management options for the North Valleys and provided direction to staff. Council approved proceeding with a 2.0 MGD expansion to RSWRF, design the expansion to not require additional discharge of effluent into Swan Lake, expedite projects to lower water levels at Swan Lake and initiate a long-range water and flood management planning process.

January 9, 2019 – Council adopted Resolution No. 8624 - A Resolution of City Council determining the need to establish a sewer allocation list and the prepayment of sewer connection fees for the Reno Stead Water Reclamation Facility pursuant to RMC 12.16.310.

#### **Discussion:**

The February 3, 2023 RSWRF sewer allocation memo is attached for Council's reference. Per the attached allocation list, 31,528 gallons per day of treatment capacity remain available for future projects which is equivalent to 191 residential units. The flow shave project diverts raw sewage at the headworks of RSWRF to an existing pipe that pumps sludge to TMWRF for processing. The existing pipe has enough capacity to pump 500,000 gallons of sewage daily to TMWRF for treatment as a temporary measure until RSWRF infrastructure is in place for treatment (water in) and effluent management (water out). In addition, the flow shave provides a benefit in reducing the amount of effluent that flows to Swan Lake during the winter months when flooding could become an issue. With the amount of rain and snow experienced this winter, RSWRF is diverting a portion of the sewage using the flow shave for this purpose. The current elevation of Swan Lake corresponds to approximately 3,750 acre feet of water whereas flooding occurs at 10,000 acre feet of water. The American Flat Farm will begin irrigating in April and pump water from Swan Lake to the farm reducing the lake elevation throughout the irrigation season (April through October).

Staff is requesting Council approval to increase the amount of sewer capacity from the flow shave project from 225,000 gallons to 350,000 gallons (+125,000 gallons) at this time reserving 150,000 gallons for future Council consideration when needed. This increased amount of sewer capacity is equivalent to 758 residential units.

#### **Financial Implications:**

None at this time. Under a sewer allocation program, applicants for sewer capacity are required to prepay their sewer connection fees to be placed on the allocation list pursuant to RMC

12.16.310 (a) prior to issuance of a “will-serve” letter.

**Legal Implications:**

The sewer allocation program is controlled by RMC 12.16.310 through 12.16.330. Direction provided is to be pursuant to the controlling RMC.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends Council approve an increase to the amount of sewer capacity at RSWRF from the flow shave project from 225,000 gallons to 350,000 gallons, reserving 150,000 gallons for future Council consideration.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move to approve staff recommendation.

**Attachments:**

RSWRF Sewer Allocation Memo 2.03.23