

B.15 Staff Report (For Possible Action): Acceptance of donation from Wild Horse Connection to support the Horse Protection Project South Phase including the purchase and installation of horse fencing in the amount of \$32,500.

STAFF REPORT

Date: January 22, 2025

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Acceptance of donation from Wild Horse Connection to support the Horse Protection Project South Phase including the purchase and installation of horse fencing in the amount of \$32,500.

From: John Flansberg, Regional Infrastructure Administrator

Department: City Manager’s Office – Council Donations

Summary:

Wild Horse Connection has offered a private donation in the amount of \$32,500 to the Horse Protection Project South Phase (continuous fence from Carmella Ranch to Toll Road and extending to near South Virginia) for the purchase and installment of horse fencing. Accepting this donation meets the following goals laid out in the City’s Strategic Plan: 1) Public Safety and 2) Economic and Community Development. Staff recommends Council accept the donation.

| 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:

Economic and Community Development
Public Safety

Previous Council Action:

December 11, 2024: Council approved an interlocal agreement with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) for the City to install and construct wildlife fencing along State Route 341 (Geiger Grade) as part of the City’s Horse Protection Project – South Phase and for NDOT to reimburse the City for this work in an amount not to exceed \$280,000.

December 11, 2024: Council authorized a contract for the installation of wildlife fencing and other appurtenances for the City’s Horse Protection Project – South Phase in accordance with competitive bidding laws set forth in Chapter 338 of NRS in an amount not to exceed \$660,000 using General Capital Funds and authorized the City Manager to sign the contract.

December 4, 2024: Council approved a donation from Wild Horse Connection in the amount of \$15,000.

July 31, 2024: Council approved the award of Construction Contract to Soil-Tech, Inc. for the Horse Protection Project – North Phase in an amount not to exceed \$457,188.70 using ARPA funds and General Capital Projects Fund.

June 12, 2024: Council approved \$315,000 from FY23/24 contingency for design and construction of the Horse Protection Project – South Phase.

May 22, 2024: Council approved \$60,000 from FY23/24 contingency for emergency fencing in South Reno to improve safety for the traveling public and horses.

March 8, 2023: Council set aside \$500,000 of ARPA funding for design and construction of the Horse Protection Project – North Phase that included fencing and cattleguard installation.

Background:

On December 20, 2024, the City Manager’s Office received an email from Tracy Wilson, Liaison and Volunteer with Wild Horse Connection, offering to generously donate \$32,500 to the Horse Protection Project South Phase.

Wild Horse Connection’s mission is to keep the wild horses of the Virginia Range free by educating the community about living with Mustangs and rescuing those that have been removed from the range. Wild Horse Connection works with the Nevada Department of Agriculture, City, County, Law Enforcement, developers and landowners to achieve their mission.

Discussion:

On July 31, 2024, City Council approved the award of construction contract to Soil-Tech, Inc. for the Horse Protection Project - North Phase to install or repair fencing for an amount not to exceed \$457,188.70. Funding for this project came from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocated to the City of Reno for Virginia Range Horse Fencing and Contingency Funds.

The Horse Protection Project - South Phase will connect to the earlier project and extend south from Carmella Ranch to Toll Road and include a section of State Route 341 (Geiger Grade) where the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) agreed to reimbursement the City for expenses relating to fencing and cattleguard installation. The exact location of fencing is to be determined in conjunction with the assistance of NDOT, Washoe County, and adjacent property owners.

Wild Horse Connection has generously offered a donation in the amount of \$32,500 to assist in the cost to furnish and install horse fencing for the South Phase.

Financial Implications:

The donation will be used to offset cost of the construction project to furnish and install horse fencing and cattleguards where needed.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed with compliance with City procedures and Nevada law. The funds may only be used for the purchase and installation of wild horse fencing.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council accept the donation.

Proposed Motion:

I move to accept the donation.

Attachments:

Donation letter from Wild Horse Connection



City of Reno

December 31, 2024

Dear City of Reno,

Wild Horse Connection is a 501(c)3 Nevada based organization devoted to our American Heritage Mustangs, working primarily on the Virginia Range here outside of Reno. We held a community fundraiser to contribute funds to the second phase of the Virginia Range fencing project being done by the city.

Wild Horse Connection is donating those funds, a total of \$32,500.00 to the City of Reno to be dedicated to this fencing project.

We thank the City for all you have done to help keep both our community and the historic Virginia Range horses safe.

With gratitude,

Corenna Vance
President, Wild Horse Connection

Wild Horse Connection
PO Box 54
Dayton, Nevada 89403

Non-Profit 501c(3)
Tax ID 47-4041060

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