



*DRAFT*

May 9, 2005

To: TMWA Chairman and Board Members

Through: Lori Williams, TMWA General Manager

From: Ron Penrose, P.E., Project Manager and Truckee River Fund Facilitator  
Sylvia Harrison  
Craig Godbout, River Fund Chairman

Subject: **Recommendations for Funding Projects from the Truckee River Fund and Request for Board Approval of Resolution #\_\_ Authorizing Funding**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Truckee River Fund Advisors recommend that the TMWA Board authorize by resolution the funding or partial funding of nine projects/proposals as outlined in this report and forward those projects/proposals to the Community Foundation to be funded out of the Truckee River Fund.

## **DISCUSSION**

The purpose of this report is to provide recommendations to the TMWA Board concerning funding requests of current projects received and reviewed by the Truckee River Fund Advisors. The Fund Advisors met on May 1, 2006 to comprehensively review and discuss the merits of the proposals.

13 proposals were received. We believe the recent symposium held to educate the community and Truckee River stakeholders was helpful in obtaining project proposals with merit. Of the 13 proposals received, **nine** are recommended for approval by the TMWA and Community Foundation Boards. The recommended proposals should have a positive impact on water quality and the Truckee River Watershed. The Fund Advisors have also initiated another RFP process which will focus strictly on projects oriented towards mitigation of storm drain/run-off impacts to the Truckee River. A draft copy of that RFP is attached for your information. Proposals solicited from this process will be

reviewed in late June/early July with recommendations forwarded for Board consideration at its July meeting.

The following is a summary of recommended projects as well as a summary of projects not recommended for funding at this time.

## **PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING**

**Project:** *Assessment of Petroleum Impacts to the Truckee River from Direct Stormwater Discharges*

**Organization:** *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

**Amount Requested:** \$30,840      **Amount Recommended:** \$30,840

**Organization Match:** \$14,750.48 (in-kind)

This project is a study of petroleum discharge uptake by fish focused on the urban area of Reno and Sparks. Previous work has shown a significant increase in uptake of hydrocarbons by fish in the urban area of the river, most likely by dumped petroleum products that enter the storm drain system. The project will be coordinated with the City of Reno and is multi-jurisdictional in nature. The project proposes to do the following:

1. Identify (through fish analysis) reaches of the river most affected by petroleum hydrocarbons.
2. Determine the extent to which hydrocarbons may be affecting wildlife.
3. Identify major non-point sources contributing significant hydrocarbons to the river.
4. Recommend reduction strategies.

### **TMWA Benefit**

There have been occasions where storm drain discharges containing oil have forced the temporary shutdown of the Glendale Water Plant. Specific reduction strategies coming from this study should help to mitigate this problem when implemented. Water quality will be improved.

---

**Project:** *Snapshot Day 2006*

**Organization:** *Nevada Department of Natural Resources (NDEP)*

**Amount Requested:** \$6605    **Amount Recommended:** \$6605

**Organization Match:** \$19,442 (In-Kind)

Snapshot day is a one day event where volunteers collect water quality data under the supervision of water quality professionals. The one day event focuses on the entire Truckee River system starting at Lake Tahoe and its tributaries all the way to Pyramid Lake. The event promotes environmental stewardship of the river and is valuable in identifying water quality hot spots along the river.

**TMWA Benefit**

Identification of hot spots with follow-up remedial action can improve river water quality which would benefit TMWA. It is recommended that this project be funded.

---

**Project:** *McCarran Ranch: Outdoor Education and Interpretive Signage Site Planning*

**Organization:** *Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space*

**Amount Requested:** \$30,780            **Amount Recommended:** \$30,780

**Organization Match:** \$7,700

The purpose of this request is to fund the preparation of a master plan for public access to the McCarran Ranch river rehabilitation project. The project is a showcase development for the community relative to habitat restoration which improves river water quality and the watershed.

**TMWA Benefit**

The McCarran Ranch project is a showcase river restoration project with concepts that can be used elsewhere on the river. Improved public access will facilitate improved public awareness and improve the chances of implementation of other restoration projects along the river.

---

**Project:** *Low Impact Development (LID) Demonstration Project at UNR*

**Organization:** *Academy for the Environment- UNR*

**Amount Requested:** \$34,483            **Amount Recommended:** \$34,483

**Organization Match:** \$12,500

This project is associated with the construction of the new student union building at UNR and includes the installation of pervious pavers in foot traffic areas and the construction of a retention basin to capture run-off from paved vehicle areas. The intent is to reduce storm run-off from the facility that would eventually enter the Truckee River.

**TMWA Benefit:**

If successful, this LID concept could be applied on a broader scale to reduce storm water run-off to the river, thus providing water quality benefits to the river and TMWA.

---

**Project:** *“This Drains to the Truckee River”-Storm Drain Stenciling Pilot Project”*

**Organization:** *Truckee River Watershed Council*

**Amount Requested:** \$9,300      **Amount Recommended:** \$9,300

**Organization Match:** \$3,380 (In-Kind)

This is a pilot project where critical storm drain inlets in the urban core of Truckee would be stenciled “This Drains to the Truckee River” in an effort to reduce auto and household toxics from reaching the Truckee River.

**TMWA Benefit:** This project will be provide direct water quality benefits to the Truckee River system.

---

**Project:** *Truckee River Clean Up Day*

**Organization:** *Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful/Environmental Leadership DBA/Nevada Econet (NEN)*

**Amount Requested:** \$13,175      **Amount Recommended:** \$13,175

**Organization Match:** \$30,995 (Cash and In-Kind)

This is a river clean up event that will take place on 9/16/06. Hot spots on the river will be identified by Parks Department Staff with subsequent clean-up by 300-350 volunteers.

Stenciling of storm drains will also be completed. Up to 20 tons of trash are expected to be removed.

**TMWA Benefits:** Clean up efforts of the river provide direct water quality benefits to TMWA.

---

**Project:** *Lower Steamboat Creek Restoration*

**Organization:** *City of Reno Public Works and Sanitary Engineering*

**Amount Requested:** \$156,000      **Amount Recommended:** \$ 86,000

**Organization Match:** \$115,000 (Cash and In-Kind)

This project entails the design of a project to restore lower Steamboat Creek from the wastewater plant to Vista. Implementation of the project will provide direct water quality benefits to the river through decreased sediment, nutrient, and trace metals loading.

The Fund Advisors felt that the project has merit, but felt there were uncertainties relative to project coordination and permitting. The amount recommended for approval is for development of a conceptual design-funding for permitting, design and maintenance/monitoring are not included. The project addresses issues that are multi-jurisdictional.

**TMWA Benefits:** Restoration of Steamboat Creek will improve the water quality of the river and will provide resource benefits to the community.

---

**Project:** *Source Protection for the Chalk Bluff Treatment Plant and Non-Point Source Pollution Protection for the river*

**Organization:** *City of Reno Public Works and Sanitary Engineering*

**Amount Requested:** \$211,000      **Amount Recommended:** \$211,000

**Organization Match:** \$53,000 (Cash & In-Kind)

This project entails a detailed study culminating with project plans and specifications for a project that will redirect surface run-off from the Highland Canal (Chalk Bluff WTP source of supply). The project will incorporate retention basins and other LID features to minimize pollutants from reaching Truckee River. The project addresses a problem crossing jurisdictional boundaries.

**TMWA Benefit:**

When implemented, this project will prevent surface run-off from entering the Highland Canal and will reduce sediment, TDS, hydrocarbon and nutrient loading on the river.

---

**Project:** *Urban Storm Water Quality Improvements*

**Organization:** *City of Reno*

**Amount Requested:** \$66,000

**Amount Recommended:** \$66,000

**Organization Match:** \$150,000 (Cash & In-Kind)

This is a demonstration project that entails the modification of six tree boxes to allow “first flush” storm water to enter the tree box and infiltrate around the tree. The intent is to have the tree and soil “uptake” pollutants that would otherwise reach the river. After a few years growth the trees would be transplanted in various parks and new trees would be planted in the tree box.

**TMWA Benefit:** This project (if proven) could be expanded and may provide for a reduction in storm water contaminants reaching the river. This is a direct water quality benefit to TMWA.

---

**PROJECTS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING**

**Project:** *Truckee River Invasive Plant Mapping and Eradication Project*

**Organization:** *Great Basin Institute/Nevada Conservation Corps*

**Amount Requested:** \$74,395.8

**Amount Recommended:** \$0

This project is two phase. The first phase involves detailed mapping of the river identifying areas of invasive, toxic weed growth that chokes off the natural riparian habitat. The second phase includes weed removal and the planting of native plants such as cottonwood, chokecherry and willows.

The fund advisors elected to defer action on this proposal. There are concerns about long term maintenance of plantings and that the future flood control project may destroy what is planned for this project. Additional coordination is required with the flood control project. Project sponsors may resubmit the proposal once answers to these questions are provided.

---

**Project:** *Tahoe-Truckee Pyramid Regional Education Project*

**Organization:** *Recreation Education Outdoors*

**Amount Requested:** \$150,000      **Amount Recommended:** \$0

This project entails the funding of the development of five additional interpretive sites along the Truckee River system. The project is educational in nature.

The Fund Advisors felt the proposal was not convincing, too geographically spread out, and that the proposal was not tied directly to the purpose of the fund.

---

**Project:** *Truckee River Recreational Access Project*

**Organization:** *Recreation Education Outdoors*

**Amount Requested:** \$400,000      **Amount Recommended:** \$0

This project proposes the implementation of additional access points along the Truckee River system for recreational purposes (boater, fishermen access, etc).

As with the previous item, the Fund Advisors felt that the proposal was not tied directly to the stated purpose of the fund and was too much focused on recreational aspects.

---

**Project:** *Reach "Y" Tree Planting*

**Organization:** *City of Reno Public Works and Sanitary Engineering*

**Amount Requested:** \$250,000      **Amount Recommended:** \$0

This project involves the planting of trees in the Reach “Y” section of the river between McCarran Boulevard and the railroad trestle. This area of the river has been channelized and is lacking in riparian habitat. At maturity, the tree planting will provide a shade canopy, will cool the river, and will reduce algae formation.

The Fund Advisors believe this project, although having merit, has many question marks at this time including potential conflict with the flood control project and coordination with expansion and operation of the waste water plant. The proposal can be resubmitted at a later date once these issues are resolved.

---