



December 14, 2005  
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**For Immediate Release**

## **Truckee River Fund Begins Funding Community Projects**

### Local organizations commit to protecting the river

(Reno-Nev.) – Five community projects aimed at improving the health of the Truckee River were approved for funding at a recent Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) Board of Directors meeting. The projects, totaling \$90,902.50, are the first to be approved through the Truckee River Fund, an organization established by the TMWA Board in 2004.

“The Truckee River system is a very valuable asset for our community and TMWA customers,” Lori Williams, TMWA general manager said. “We are proud to support a program that assists organizations in protecting our precious resource.”

The purpose of the fund, as stated in the fund agreement, is that it “shall be used exclusively for projects that protect and enhance water quality or water resources of the Truckee River, or its watershed”. In addition, the fund provides TMWA with a vehicle for responding to the many requests from outside groups and organizations that are involved in promoting and improving the health of the Truckee River system and watershed, thus benefiting both the primary water source for the community and TMWA customers.

The fund operates under the umbrella of the Community Foundation of Western Nevada, a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It utilizes an advisory committee of nine members. The Committee equally represents the three political entities in the area; Washoe County, City of Reno and City of Sparks each appoint three members, none of whom may be elected.

(more)

The TMWA Board also approved funding for annual River Fund workshops and symposia. The goal of these workshops is to promote communication and coordination among the various groups interested in the Truckee River, thus increasing the prospects for funding meaningful projects.

Questions concerning the Truckee River Fund may be directed to Ron Penrose, Project Manager, Truckee Meadows Water Authority (775) 834-8017, or Chris Askin, Executive Director, Community Foundation of Western Nevada (775) 333-5499.

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### **Addendum:**

The five approved projects are as follows:

**City of Reno in Conjunction with the City of Sparks - \$25,000**

**Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful and Environmental Leadership - \$9,402.50**

**Rainshadow Community Charter High School - \$7,500**

**Business, Residential & Environmental Partnership with Champions of the Truckee River - \$24,000**

**Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources at the University of Nevada, Reno - \$25,000**

For project descriptions and a discussion of the committee's rationale for supporting the projects, the link below will take you to the staff report from the November 30 TMWA Board meeting.

[http://www.tmh2o.com/about\\_us/meeting\\_center/pdfs/20051130.18.pdf](http://www.tmh2o.com/about_us/meeting_center/pdfs/20051130.18.pdf)