


Truckee Meadows Water Authority

Homeless Activity As It Relates To Water Quality Concerns Along The Truckee River


Presentation to Community Homeless Advisory Board



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Brief Overview

- 85% of the public's water supply comes from the Truckee River
- Provide water to roughly 420,000 customers of Reno/Sparks area
- Two water treatment plants on the Truckee River
 - Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant
 - Glendale Water Treatment Plant



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CHAB 11-4-19 #6
 TmWA

Important facts to remember

- The water delivered to TMWA customers has always been safe to drink
- TMWA has NEVER had a health based water quality violation
- EVERYTHING that you put in the Truckee River, we have to take out
- We can treat pretty much anything...but we shouldn't have to



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Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant



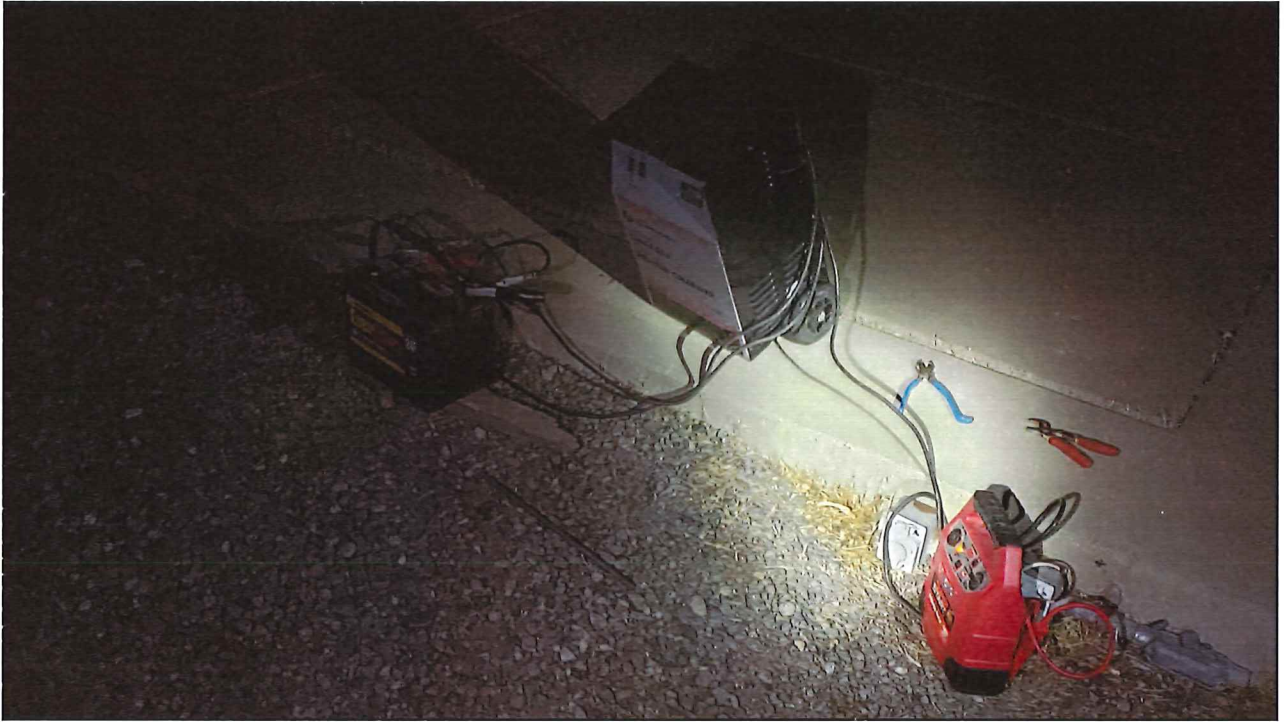
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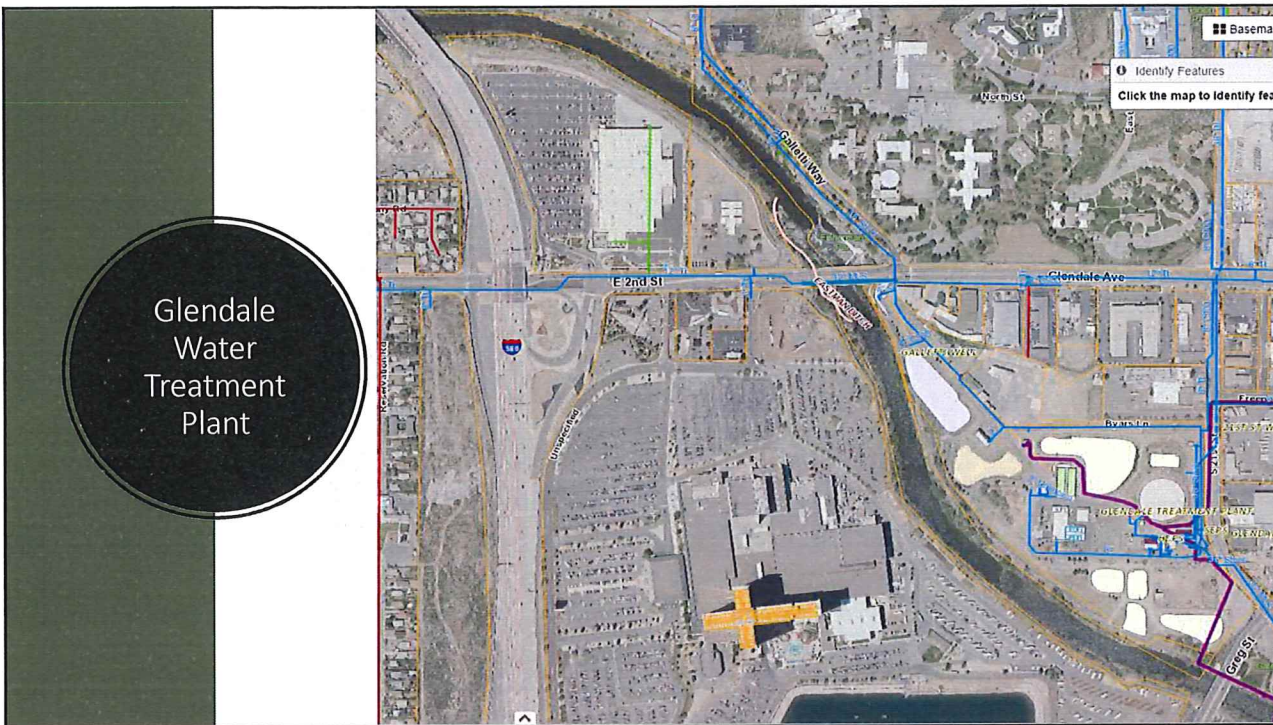
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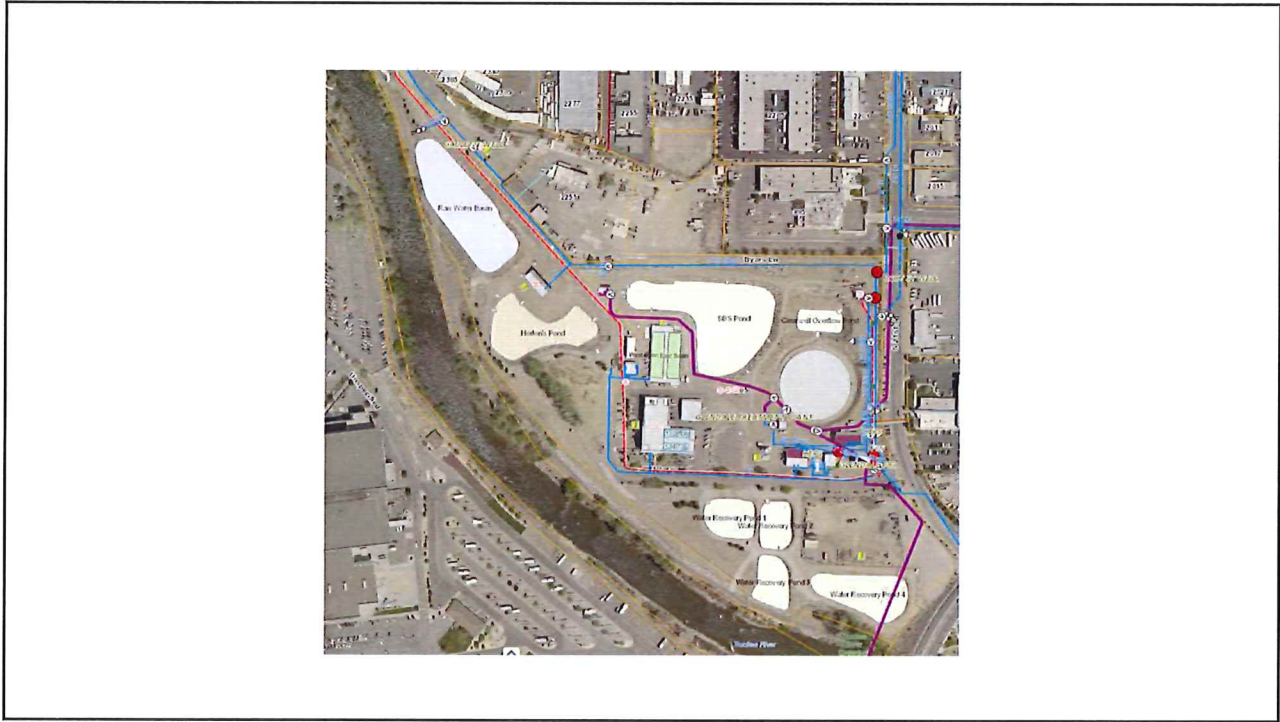
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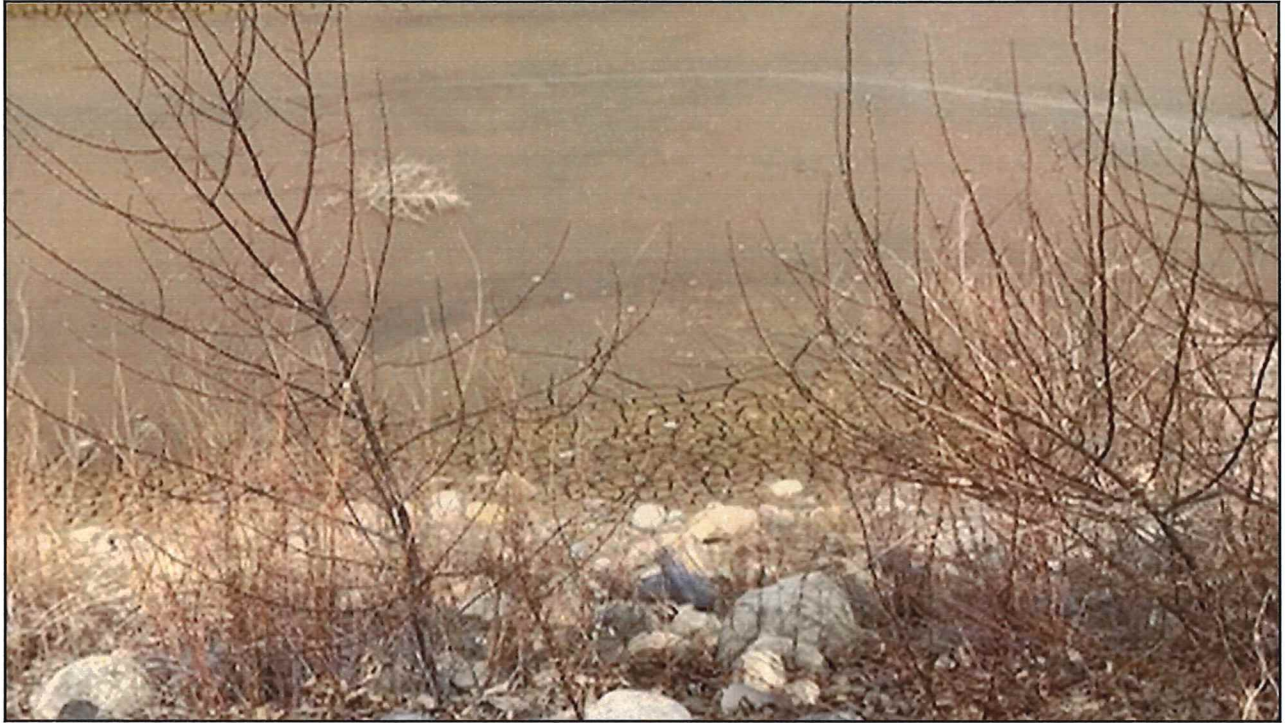
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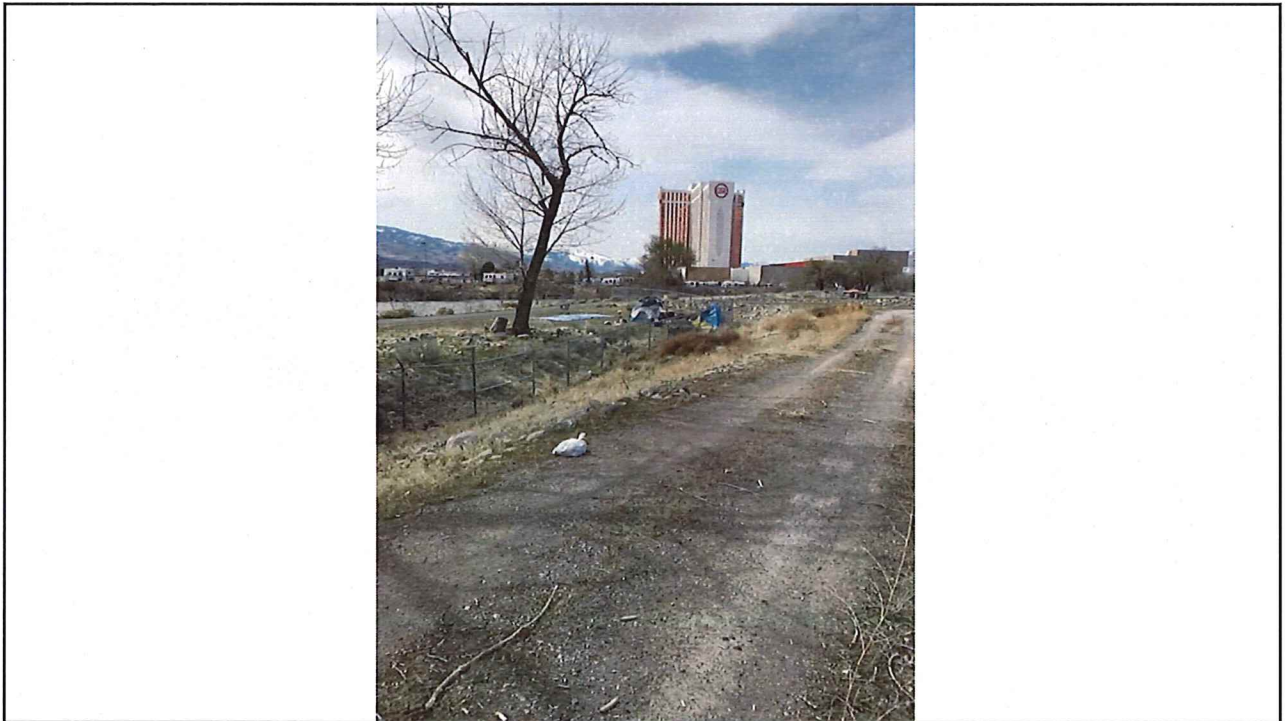
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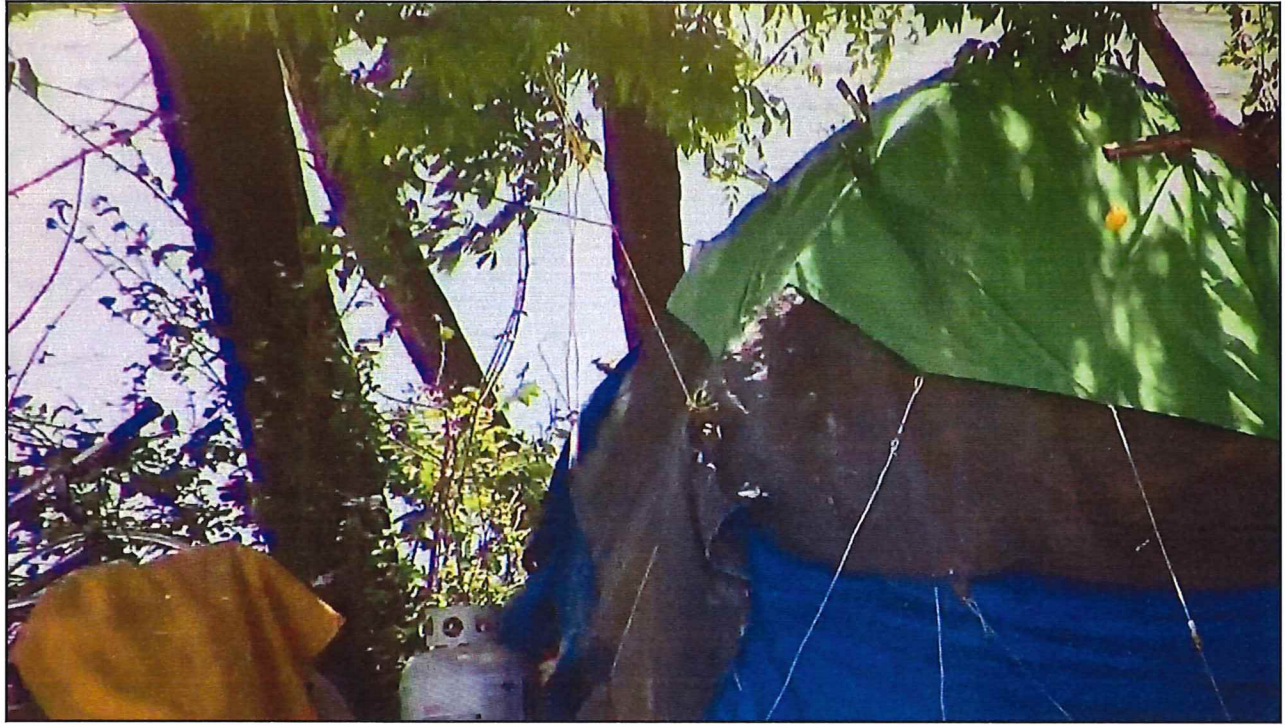
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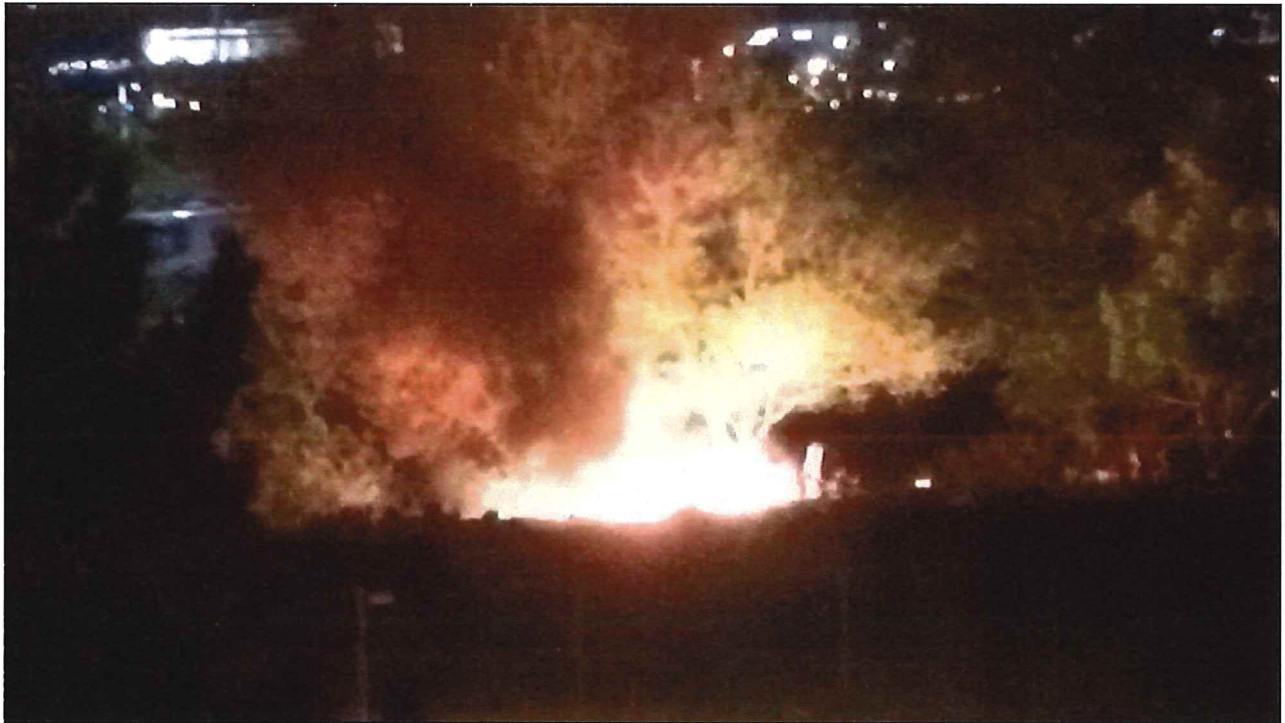
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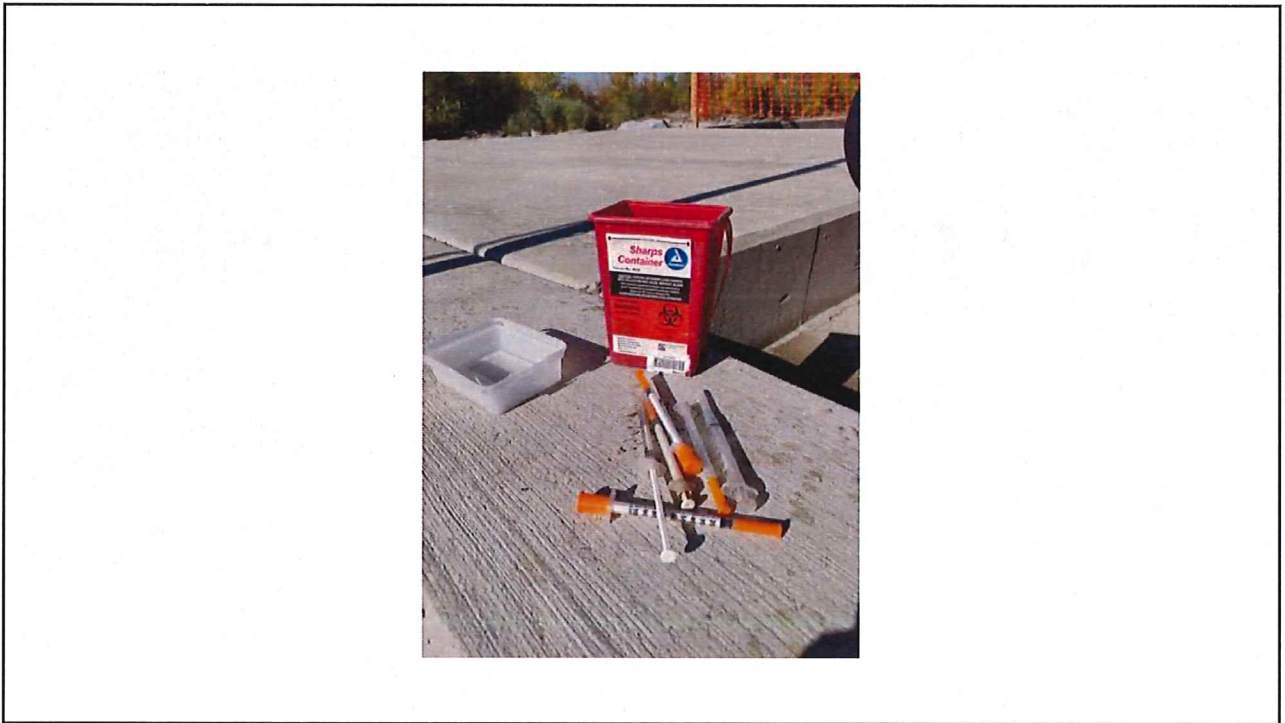
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Questions?

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1



(Some of) ONE TRUCKEE RIVER

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CHARZ 11-4-19 #6
One Truckee River



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Nine Focus Areas

- Social Issues
- Education
- Water Quality
- Sustainable Funding
- Stewardship
- Ecosystem
- Public Safety
- Recreation
- Quality of Life

Four Primary Goals

1. Ensure and protect water quality and ecosystem health in the Truckee River
2. Create and sustain a safe, beautiful and accessible river connecting people and places.
3. Build an aware and engaged community that protects and cares for the river.
4. Ensure the measurable, sustainable and collaborative management of the river for today and into the future.

The diagram features a background image of a river with people kayaking. A vertical stack of four green arrows points from the 'Nine Focus Areas' list to the 'Four Primary Goals' list.

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The One Truckee River Management Plan was unanimously approved by the following municipalities in September of 2016:

City of Sparks
on September 26, 2016

Washoe County
on September 27, 2016

City of Reno
on September 28, 2016

The One Truckee River Management Plan received the following awards in 2016:

2016 Golden Pinecone Innovation Award
2016 American Planning Association Outstanding Environmental Plan

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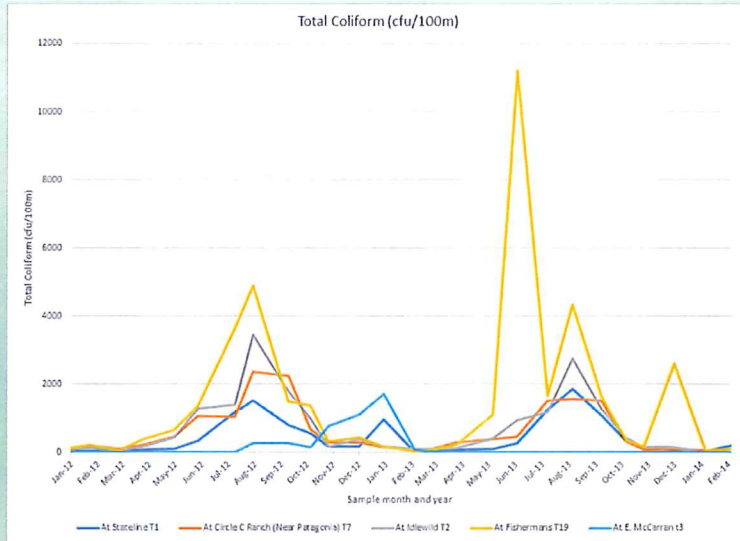


one truckee river Accomplishments

- Baseline mapping
- Community knowledge survey
- Teacher resource and photo guides
- Watershed education guide
- Personal flotation device station
- Mile markers
- AB379
- Coordination team hired
- One Truckee River Month
- River Stories and River Photos contests
- ArTrail with Washoe County
- Working to monitor partners' progress to support increased communication and limit duplication

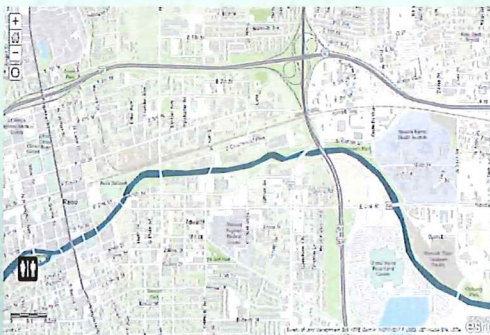
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OTR's Priority Water Quality Action Item 1.3.b



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The most crucial need in the Reno-Sparks urban core



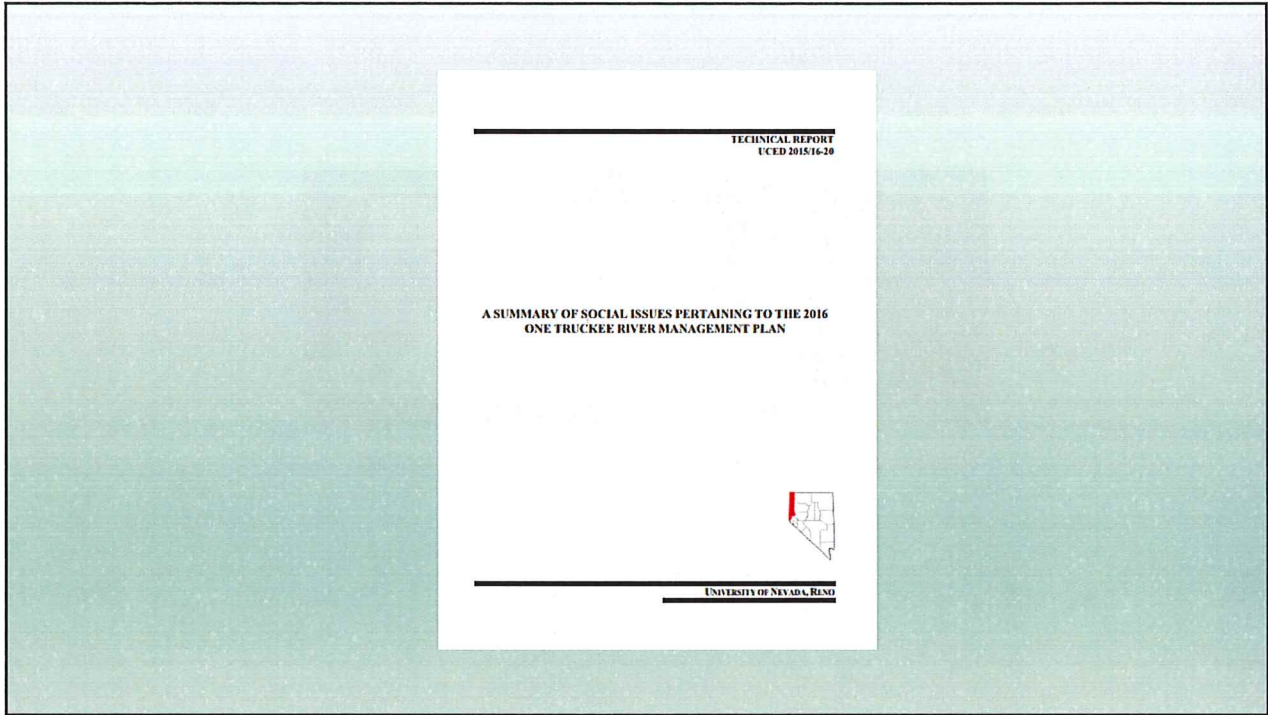
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The Truckee Meadows region
needs **26,062**
more affordable housing units

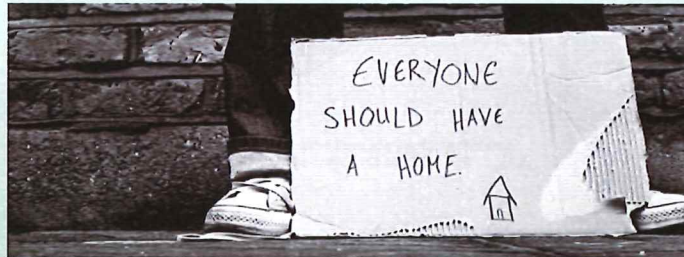
Category	Sparks	Reno	Washoe County	Truckee Meadows
Number of Affordable Units Needed	8,715	23,223	41,500	49,935
Number of Affordable Units Needed, Renters Alone	3,329	11,810	24,920	28,862

Source: Nevada Housing Division 2011 Annual Housing Program Report. Estimate the region's affordable housing gap using a conventional 30% to rent (2012-2014) data.

HOUSING OUR FUTURE: COMMUNITY PROFILE 45

Data from Housing Our Future, The Truckee Meadows Regional Strategy for Housing Affordability, was prepared in partnership with Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. on behalf of Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities (TMHC), Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) and community stakeholders

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<https://www.aiaseattle.org/join-aia-seattles-homelessness-task-force/>

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Support the Affordable Housing Trust Funds



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Support the Amendment Topic “Incentives for Affordable Housing” to move forward

<p>Incentives for Affordable Housing</p> <p><i>Master Plan: Priority Initiative PI-A</i></p> <p><i>Policy 4.1a-g IMP-4.1a IMP-4.1d IMP-4.2a-b</i></p> <p><i>2019 City Council Priority</i></p>	<p>Development of a Targeted Affordable and Workforce Housing Strategy is a priority Master Plan priority initiative separate from the code update. Amending development standards is one of many strategies being evaluated and pursued.</p> <p>A Regional Strategy for Housing Affordability was recently completed and presented to public officials. The document outlines a broad suite of approaches to improve housing affordability.</p> <p>Staff recommends that the code update focus on targeted amendments to a variety of development requirements to support more affordable housing opportunities. Amendments related to parking, grading, sidewalks, and landscaping should help reduce housing costs while maintaining requirements for quality design.</p> <p>Staff also recommends expansions to Reno’s existing affordable housing incentive programs for parking and housing density. Changes would seek to increase utilization by expanding eligibility from 50% AMI up to 80% AMI, reducing the contract period from 30 to 20 years, and allowing incentives for mixed use projects (in addition to residential projects).</p> <p>More significant new programs to potentially include an inclusionary housing ordinance should be considered separately.</p>	<p>The post-update zoning map assessment process outlined in issue sheet IC should increase opportunities for more affordable housing products in Reno.</p> <p>Additional code amendments should be considered through separate processes to implement ongoing housing initiatives.</p> <p>Significant future amendments could include a mandatory or incentive based inclusionary housing program.</p>	<p>Attachment: June 19, 2019 Planning Commission Packet (11287 : Zoning Code Update .</p>
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City of Reno Staff Report subject Zoning Code RENOVation Issue Sheet 2A (7/31/19) D1.b page 2
 Summary Table A: Preliminary Table of Development Standards Amendments

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Explore and consider shelters similar to Dignity Village in Portland, OR



<https://dignityvillage.org>

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Update on Prioritized Action Items

One Truckee River’s mission is to ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable river connected to the hearts and minds of its community.

One Truckee River (OTR) is a collaboration of public and private partners focused on the implementation of the OTR Management Plan (Phase I), whose 100+ Action Items are devoted



One Truckee River Stakeholder Forum 9/30/15

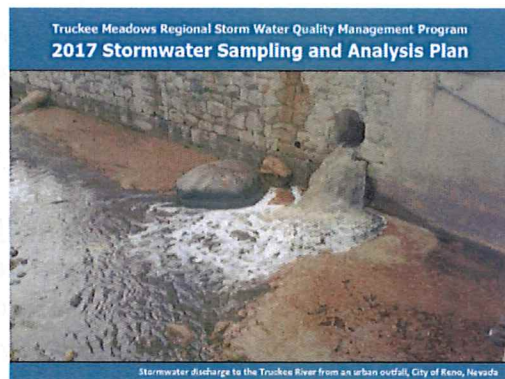
to protecting the Truckee River. In 2016, the Plan was unanimously adopted by Truckee Meadows’ three local jurisdictions (Washoe County, City of Reno, and the City of Sparks). At the end of 2017, OTR’s Partnership Council prioritized nine OTR Action Items. A summary of the status is provided below. OTR aims to have this summary document be as accurate and comprehensive as possible. Please contact us if you have relevant information to share and we will work to update this document.

Prioritized OTR Action Items under *Goal 1: Ensure and protect water quality and ecosystem health in the Truckee River.*

1.1.a – Identify location of all high-volume storm drains and the largest storm water contributions to the Truckee River.

Update on 1.1.a:

- Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) reviewed existing GIS coverage and attribute data and provided results and recommendations in *Draft Results: Data Gathering and Assessment of Regional Stormwater GIS Data*. About 60% of our developed areas appear to have adequate GIS data coverage of stormwater conveyance features. Phase 2 will include a meeting with public works staff to examine the results of Phase I and craft a realistic proposal to complete the schematic-level data coverage.
- The Truckee Meadows Regional Storm Water Quality Management Program’s 2017 Stormwater Sampling and Analysis Plan was prepared for the City of Reno in cooperation with City of Sparks, Washoe County, and Nevada Department of Transportation. Prepared by Balance Hydrologics, Inc., the plan identifies eleven fixed sites on eight tributaries of the Truckee River where elevated concentration of constituents as well as high storm water runoff volumes have been shown.



Prepared for the City of Reno in cooperation with City of Sparks, Washoe County, and Nevada Department of Transportation. Prepared by Balance Hydrologics, Inc.

Entities engaged currently with the Action Item:

Truckee Meadows Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee, Nevada Department of Transportation, Balance Hydrologics, Inc., and Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency.

Estimated completion date of the Action Item: Estimated Fall 2020.

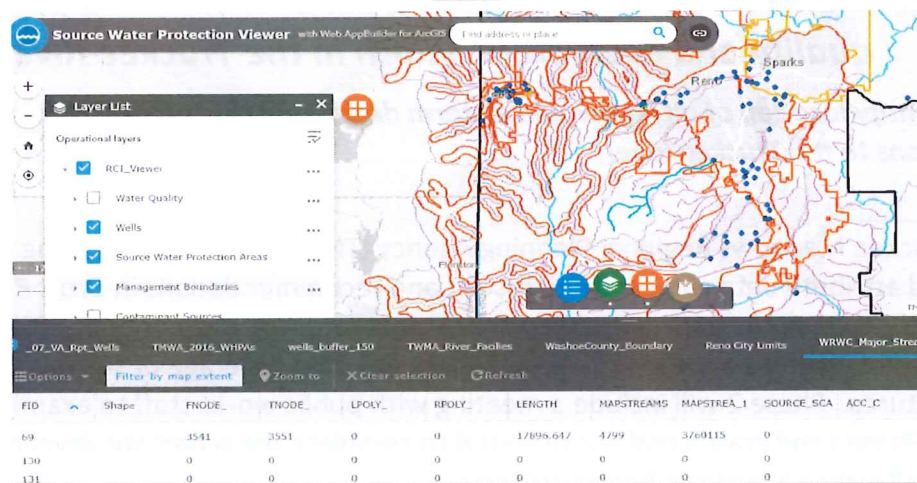
Update on Prioritized Action Items

One Truckee River’s mission is to ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable river connected to the hearts and minds of its community.

1.2.a) Develop Truckee River Watershed Management Plan through stakeholder coordination and consensus process.

Update on 1.2.a:

- The Truckee Meadows Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee (TMSPCC), under City of Reno management, selected Nichols Consulting Engineers to perform an update to the tributaries of the Truckee River Watershed Management Plan. The contract is funded by Western Regional Water Commission. A kickoff meeting took place on April 11th to incorporate projects already identified and provide direction on the update with City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County staff.
- Resource Concepts, Inc (RCI) is coordinating with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the TMSPCC in developing a joint Sourcewater Protection Plan and Watershed Management Plan for the Truckee Meadows area. RCI is also working with the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency for a mapping tool to support the plan.



Sample of online tool being developed by Resource Concepts, Inc. in coordination with Truckee Meadows Water Authority and Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Process to support the Watershed Management Plan.

- OTR’s Partnership Coordinator met with a majority of committee members to support coordination and communication.

Additional Updates Related to the Action Item:

- Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe completed a water quality improvement project at Wadsworth, NV where water is discharged from agricultural fields.
- Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) staff collaborates regularly with the Federal Water Master regarding river management.

Entities engaged currently with the Action Item: Truckee Meadows Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee with representatives from the City of Sparks, City of Reno, and Washoe County, Western Regional Water Commission, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency, Nevada Division of Environmental Protections Bureau of Water Quality Planning and Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, Resource Concepts Inc., and Nichols Consulting Engineers.

Estimated completion date of the Action Item: Spring 2020

Update on Prioritized Action Items

One Truckee River’s mission is to ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable river connected to the hearts and minds of its community.

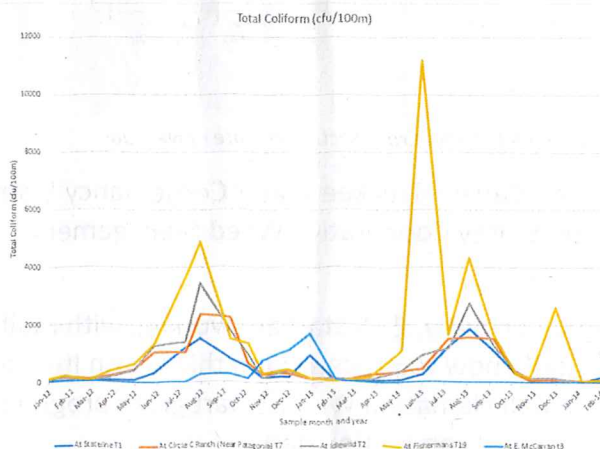
1.3.c) Ensure adequate public restrooms along the Truckee River. Initiate a pilot study of temporary restroom facilities in priority areas along the river corridor.

Update on 1.3.c:

- The River Restroom Project (Project) evolved out of this Action Item with four phases identified to establish nine new public restrooms along the Truckee River in the Reno-Sparks urban core area. Funding for all of the Project’s Phase I and half of Phase II is secured from Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Truckee River Fund (TRF), Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space, Washoe County Health District, Renown Health, and Nevada Land Trust.
- The City of Reno is considering entering into a perpetual agreement with TMWA to install the Project’s first new restroom in Brodhead Park on City of Reno property.
- TRF awarded funding for community engagement activities in support Project success. Community engagement planning is underway with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB), OTR staff, and other entities. Support letters from local businesses including the Courtyard Marriott and Reno Aces were collected. Northern Nevada Recovery Alumni Association adopted Brodhead Park through KTMB’s Adopt-a-Park Program.
- OTR partnered with Downtown Reno Partnership to secure a River Ambassador who will be hired by Street Plus to conduct outreach to the currently homeless population along the river near Brodhead Park.
- This Action Item was spearheaded by OTR’s Housing and Sanitation Working Group efforts in 2018 that researched restroom options, explored the Portland Loo in detail and conducted multiple interviews with local cities’ staff and elected officials. Proposed timelines, marketing tools and design plans were given to local government entities.



Portland Loo restroom



Total Coliform measured from 2012 to 2014 (Source: NDEP)

Entities engaged currently with the Action Item: Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Truckee River Fund, Washoe County Parks and Open Space and Health District, Renown Health, Nevada Land Trust, and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP).
Estimated completion date of the Action Item: Phase I to start Spring 2020 and completion for the entire Project (with funding to be secured) is estimated at the end of 2024.

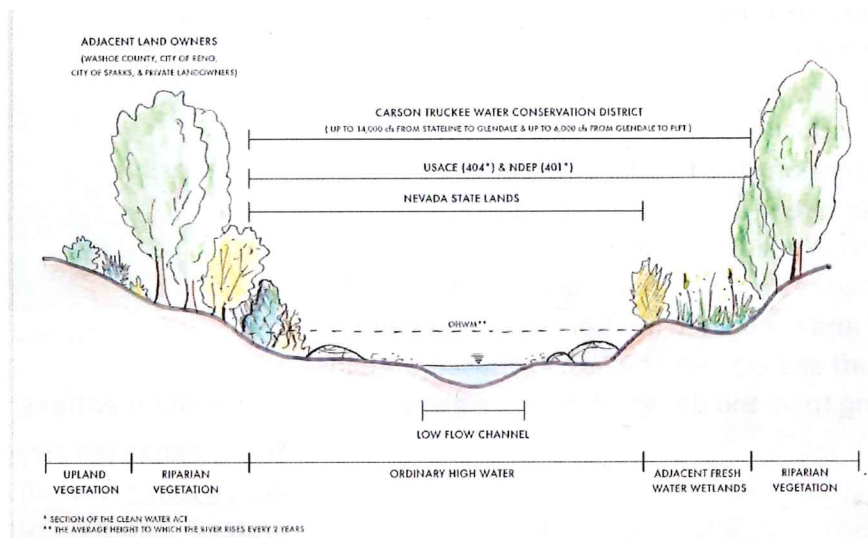
Update on Prioritized Action Items

One Truckee River's mission is to ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable river connected to the hearts and minds of its community.

1.4.c) Develop and implement a coordinated vegetation management plan along the river.

Update on 1.4.c

- The vegetation management along the river up to the 14,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) level above Glendale Bridge and the 6,000 cfs level below the Glendale Bridge is the jurisdiction of the Carson-Truckee Water Conservancy District by several acts of Congress.
- The City of Reno's Public Works Department is testing Integrated Vegetation Management techniques on city dams, stormwater conveyance, weed management, and establishing desired perennial plants.
- Washoe County has expressed interest in Integrated Vegetation Management techniques for their parks and open space areas along the Truckee River corridor.
- The Washoe Storey Cooperative Weed Management Association (WSCWMA) is currently working to establish itself as a formal Cooperative Weed Management Area. In order to do this, the WSCWMA has obtained sponsorship funding from the Washoe Storey Conservation District to fund the establishment fees to the Secretary of State and other entities. Once established, the WSCWMA will be able to apply for and receive grant funding to support noxious weed abatement in Washoe and Storey County.



Typical Truckee River Federal and State Jurisdictional Cross-Section in State of Nevada

Entities engaged currently with the Action Item: Carson-Truckee Water Conservancy District, City of Reno, Washoe County, and the Washoe Storey Cooperative Weed Management Association.

Estimated completion date of the Action Item: Currently, OTR staff are working with multiple OTR partners and other relevant entities to clarify how to proceed with this Action Item and are preparing to submit a proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation Water Smart grant program to support this work. At this time there is no estimated completion date.

Update on Prioritized Action Items

One Truckee River’s mission is to ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable river connected to the hearts and minds of its community.

Prioritized OTR Action Items under Goal 2: Create and sustain a safe, beautiful and accessible river connecting people and places.

2.1.e) Enhance Truckee River visitor safety, access, public facilities (bathrooms) and education.

Update on 2.1.e:

- **Enhance safety and access to the river** is focused on three different forms:
 - First, safety can increase when there are more “eyes on the street” (urbanist Jane Jacobs’ term) meaning people serve unconsciously as a witness in lively, well-trafficked public spaces as a deterrent to people contemplating an obvious crime. We can use this idea to increase safety along the river. The whitewater park in downtown Reno is a great local example of “eyes on the river”. May’s OTR Month (started in 2018) is one way that we as a community are working to accomplish this along the Truckee River.
 - Second, safety is increased when access to the river is improved for emergency response personal to enter specific areas along the river to quickly respond to water related injuries. This form of safety through access has been reviewed by OTR Signage and River Safety Working Group in 2018/19 in conjunction with OTR Action Item 2.2.b.
 - Third, being aware of man-made hazards in the river improves safety. River access points have been mapped and TMWA has replaced and installed several portable signs to encourage safe portage around TMWA’s river diversions. Recently TMWA also repaired the diversion at Glendale to allow for safer passage and portage opportunities.
- **Public facilities** are the basic building blocks of a complete public park and invite users from all walks of life to exercise and connect with nature and each other. Improving public park facilities builds community resilience, supports social cohesion, and improves public health. OTR Action Item 1.3.c work focuses on expanding public restroom facilities along the Truckee River. Other public facilities beyond restrooms are trash facilities including Sharps containers. In 2018, Washoe County Health District purchased and installed, with the support of the City of Reno, a pilot sharps disposal receptacle at Brodhead Park and provided 500 one-quart sharps containers to the Reno Police for sharps collections.
- **Education** –Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB), Sierra Nevada Journeys, and Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation conduct watershed education in the region.
 - KTMB educators reach 1,800+ local community members including K-12 students and adults with their watershed education program and materials annually. In



Truckee River Whitewater Park in the City Reno.

Update on Prioritized Action Items

One Truckee River’s mission is to ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable river connected to the hearts and minds of its community.

In addition, KTMB leads and focuses on specific areas along the Truckee River through their Adopt-A-Spot Program, Neighborhood Cleanup, Great Community Cleanup, and Truckee River Cleanup Day. In 2019, 4,000+ community members volunteered through KTMB's cleanup efforts and Adopt-a-Spot Program, removing 92,000+ pounds of trash and 164,000+ pounds of green waste from the Truckee River Watershed. During these cleanups, KTMB staff educates volunteers about protecting the river from non-point source pollution and the importance of removing invasive weeds.

- Sierra Nevada Journeys reaches 6000+ students each year in the Truckee Meadows with watershed and outdoor science education programs.
- In Spring 2020, through the River Restroom Project, Downtown Reno Partnership will be conducting outreach to the currently homeless population along the river near Brodhead Park and more activities are planned to connect with local residents in the surrounding neighborhood.

Entities engaged with the Action Item: City of Sparks, City of Reno, Washoe County, Tahoe-Pyramid Trail, Washoe Zephyr Consulting, the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, Sierra Nevada Journeys, and Truckee Meadows Park Foundation.

Estimated completion date of the Action Item: No estimated completion date at this time.

2.2.b) Complete a multi-jurisdictional signage plan including standards for maps, directions, rules, stewardship and interpretive signs.

Update:

- Final signage plan reflecting comments from agencies and individuals is being circulated among the Signage and Safety Committee.
- Preparing for final adoption by Cities of Sparks, Reno, and Washoe County in late November/early December of 2019.
- Nevada Land Trust is providing dedicated staff to help oversee implementation.
- Alta Planning + Design has agreed to extend their contract through the installation of signage plan. Budget adjustments and finalizing the contract amendment is currently being discussed.



Sample of signage plan concept, specifically trailhead kiosk.

Entities engaged: City of Sparks, City of Reno, Washoe County, Tahoe-Pyramid Trail, Washoe Zephyr Consulting, and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

Estimated completion date: Summer 2020.

Update on Prioritized Action Items

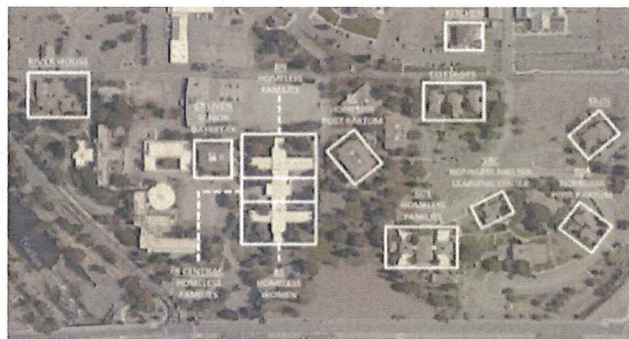
One Truckee River's mission is to ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable river connected to the hearts and minds of its community.

2.6.a) Expand the continuum of housing options, including a permanent overflow shelter, transitional housing, and access to permanent, supportive housing, including the wrap around services needed to support residents.

The 2019 *Housing Our Future - Truckee Meadows Regional Strategy for Housing Affordability* (prepared in partnership with Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. on behalf of Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency and community stakeholders) reported the Truckee Meadows region needs 26,062 more affordable rental units to meet the current need. Below are efforts known to OTR to meet this need:

Update:

- Washoe County Social Services Department is moving forward with the Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS) Campus that will serve 250+ currently homeless women and families. The project will open up space at the Volunteers of America (VOA) shelter for homeless men. The County anticipates the facility opening in May 2020. They currently support three case managers in the region and the goal is to add six more.
- The Washoe County Crossroads Program is expanding to allow for more sober living shelters with youth case managers.
- The Community Homelessness Advisory Board was created with representation from the City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County in 2018 and continues to meet.
- The Community Foundation of Western Nevada created the Community Housing Land Trust to receive donated land that is being used for affordable housing. The first project under the trust is the Village on Sage Street, which consists of 210 single room units. 80 units are full as of 10/7/19.
- The Acting in Community Together in Organizing Northern Nevada (ACTIONN) is advocating for the creation of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund in Washoe County. This fund will support “the rehabilitation, repair, and/or production of affordable housing and housing related support to the residents of Washoe County.”
- The Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) is working with stakeholders to develop a proposal to identify funding sources and design a tiered level service package of Medicaid rehabilitation services for permanent supported housing under 1915(l) of the Social Security Act.
- Northern Nevada HOPES, with support from the City of Reno, is working to develop Hope Springs, a village with 30 individual units striving to serve 60-120 individuals a year.



Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS) Campus Parcel Map



Update on Prioritized Action Items

One Truckee River’s mission is to ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable river connected to the hearts and minds of its community.

- The Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities/Enterprise Community Partners/Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency are creating a regional study to address housing affordability.
- In 2018, the City of Reno allocated \$1 million to increase affordable housing and hired OrgCode Consulting, Inc. to conduct an operational review of the housing and homelessness system in Washoe County.
- A few of NV Youth Empowerment Project’s board members started a new organization, Truckee Meadows Housing Solutions, to develop low income housing that will target youth and seniors.

Entities engaged with the Action Item: The three jurisdictions including Washoe County Social Services and the Community Homelessness Advisory Board (CHAB); Reno Area Alliance for the Homeless (RAAH), Silver State Fair Housing Council; nonprofits: Volunteers of America, NV Hopes, Community Foundation of Western NV, The Life Change Center, The Acting in Community Together in Organizing Northern Nevada (ACTIONN), the Eddy House, Northern NV Veterans Resource Center, Restart, RISE, The Empowerment Center, the MOST Team, United Way of Northern NV and the Sierra, Committee to Aid Abused Women, Crisis Pregnancy Center, Casa de Vida; and churches: Catholic Charities of Northern NV, Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission Inc. St. Vincent's Residence and Dining, The Salvation Army Church, Interfaith Hospitality Fam PRM.

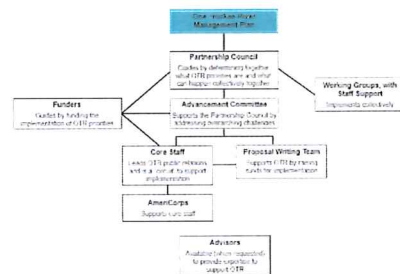
Estimated completion date of the Action Item: No estimated completion date at this time.

Prioritized OTR Action Items under *Goal 4: Ensure the measurable and collaborative management of the river for today and into the future.*

4.1.a) *Assess existing groups and structures for possible entities to house the management of the OTR Plan and develop recommendations.*

Update on 4.1.a:

- OTR Funding, Metrics for Success, and Structure Working Group has explored other entities to house OTR long-term with one entity emerging to be the best fit for OTR. Currently, internal conversations are being conducted with the identified entity, OTR staff, and OTR Funding, Metrics for Success, and Structure Working Group members to explore the details related to housing OTR.
- OTR core staff developed a Proposal Writing Team with guidelines and an internal check list to support fundraising for OTR priority action items. Since 2018, the Team applied for a total of \$665,678 and has secured \$396,974 for OTR priority action items.
- OTR Partnership Council has identified benefits and challenges to the proposed new structure scheduled to be implemented at the beginning of 2020 after OTR’s transition to its long-term home is completed. OTR’s new structure was developed over the course of a year through the OTR Funding, Metrics for Success, and Structure Working Group,



One Truckee River’s New Structure Model



Update on Prioritized Action Items

One Truckee River's mission is to ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable river connected to the hearts and minds of its community.

OTR core staff, and 25 one-on-one meetings with current OTR Partnership Council members and past Core Planning Team members.

Entities engaged with the Action Item: OTR Partnership Council members including Nevada Land Trust, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, and members of OTR's Funding, Metrics for Success, and Structure Working Group.

Estimated completion date of the Action Item: January 2020

4.2.b) Create metrics for measuring success and achievements of the plan.

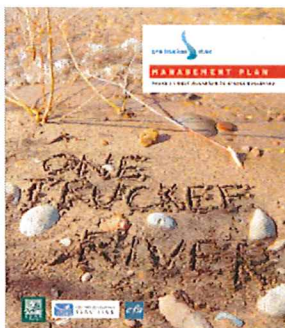
Update on 4.2.b:

- The outside consultants, Turning Point, Inc. and University of Nevada, Reno, Center for Program Evaluation, were hired at the beginning of 2019 to lead the OTR Partnership to develop effective metrics for the OTR Management Plan, Phase I (Plan). So far, through surveys and meetings, the consultants have led OTR Partnership Council to define key indicators per OTR's four Goals. Now, meetings with OTR Partnership Council members, OTR core staff, and the consultants are schedule for the propose of understanding what data is already being collected and can be collected in the future that is relevant to the Plan and what metrics are most suitable to track progress per Goal with the Plan.
- In addition, the consultants are supporting OTR Partnership Council capacity building through facilitating meetings and conversations with OTR Partnership Council members to define what OTR success would look like if the OTR Management Plan, Phase I was successful and has started to drafted a strategy of what accomplishments are essential to achieving that success.

Entities engaged with the Action Item: OTR Partnership Council, OTR's Funding, Metrics for Success, and Structure Working Group, and Turning Point, Inc. in collaboration with the University of Nevada, Reno Center for Program Evaluation.

Estimated completion date of the Action Item: End of 2020

More work has been conducted and continues connected to the OTR Management Plan (Phase I). The chart is a summary status of other OTR Action Items, not included in the nine priority Action Items.

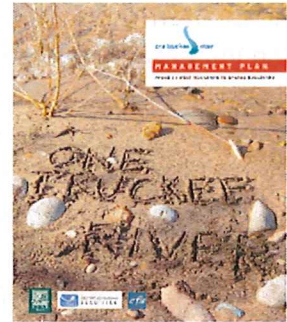


OTR's Management Plan (Phase I)

Action Item Number	Status
2.3.c, 2.4.a, 3.1.b, 3.1.c, 3.2.a, 3.2.g, 3.3.a, 4.1.c, 4.4.a	Completed
1.6.b, 2.3.a, 2.3.b, 2.3.d, 2.3.f, 2.4.b, 2.4.c, 2.5.a, 2.6.i, 3.1.d, 3.3.f, 3.3.g, 3.4.a, 4.1.e	Started
1.3.a, 1.3.b, 1.3.d, 1.4.d, 1.6.b, 2.5.b, 3.2.b, 3.2.c, 3.2.f, 3.2.h, 3.3.e, 3.3.h, 3.4.b, 3.4.e, 3.4.f, 3.4.g, 4.4.b	Ongoing

River Restroom Project – Proposed Phases I through IV

One Truckee River (OTR) is a collaboration of public and private partners focused on the implementation of the OTR Management Plan Phase I unanimously adopted by the three local jurisdictions (Washoe County, City of Reno, and the City of Sparks) in 2016. In 2017, OTR prioritized the OTR Action Item 1.3.c to increase public restrooms along the Truckee River. The action item aims to, *“Ensure adequate public restrooms along the Truckee River. Initiate a pilot study of temporary restroom facilities in priority areas along the river corridor. Identify key locations along the river with high user activity and implement a pilot program with addition of public restrooms.”*



OTR's Phase I Management Plan

Summary of Project Need and Benefit: Lack of public restrooms has created a human waste issue that impacts the water quality of the Truckee River and its terminus, Pyramid Lake, which serve as drinking water sources, recreational waters, irrigation water sources, and habitat for federally-listed fishes. Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) and other agencies regularly record elevated Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) in the river (Total Coliform, Figure 1), and while the source of *E. coli* has not been tied directly to a single source, human waste is a probable contributor. From data below from Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) it is notable that the Total Coliform counts vary over time but are consistently elevated at discrete locations.

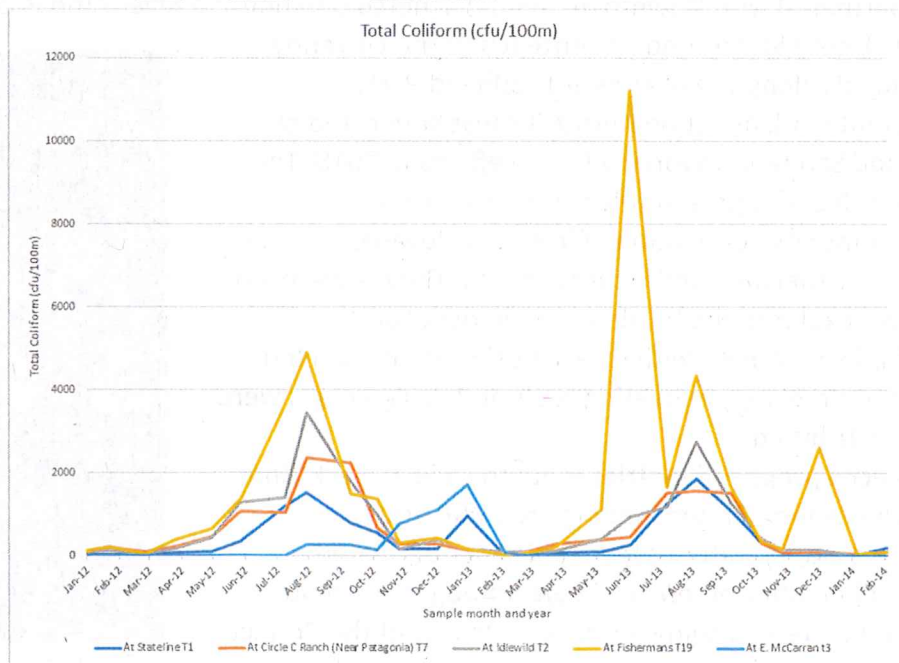


Figure 1: Total Coliform measured from 2012 to 2014 (Source: Nevada Division of Environmental Protection)

Human impact on water quality is a crucial concern as the Truckee Meadows region is forecasted to grow by 120,000+ new residents by 2035. Restrooms are a basic building block of a complete, functioning public park. By improving public spaces for everyone, restrooms build community resilience, support social cohesion, increase urban renewal, and improve public health. With less human waste entering the river, everyone will enjoy it more safely and comfortably, potential vectors for infectious disease will be reduced, and the region's water quality will improve.

Current Project Status: The River Restroom Project (the Project) evolved out of the OTR Action Item 1.3.c with Phases I to IV proposed with the goal to add nine new public restrooms (an increase from nine to 18) along the 116-mile Truckee River stretch from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake. The Project's focus area is the Reno-Sparks urban core to improve the Truckee Meadows water quality and well-being of the whole community. Funding for all of the Project's Phase I and half of Phase II is secured from:

- Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA)
- Truckee River Fund (TRF)
- Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space
- Washoe County Health District
- Renown Health, and
- Nevada Land Trust

The City of Reno is exploring entering into a perpetual agreement with TMWA to install the Project's first new restroom that will launch Phase I in Brodhead Park on City of Reno property.

Community engagement and partnership will be key to Phase I's success. TRF awarded funding for Phase I's community engagement activities to the local neighborhood near Broadhead Park. Planning for these activities are underway through collaboration with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB), Northern Nevada Recovery Alumni Association (NNRAA), and OTR staff. Support letters from local businesses including the Courtyard Marriott and Reno Aces were collected. Recently, NNRAA adopted Brodhead Park from KTMB's Adopt-a-Park Program. OTR partnered with Downtown Reno Partnership to house a River Ambassador that will be hired by Street Plus to conduct outreach to the currently homeless individuals along the river near Brodhead Park.

The current work of Action Item 1.3.c was supported by OTR's Housing and Sanitation Working Group efforts in 2018. The Working Group included representatives from the three jurisdictions, Community Foundation of Western Nevada, Downtown Reno Partnership, and local residents. They researched restroom options, explored the Portland Loo in detail and conducted multiple interviews with local cities' staff and elected officials. Proposed timelines, marketing tools and design plans were developed and distributed.

The Project's proposed metrics (data to collect, track, and analyze quarterly) include 1) surrounding area DRP Street Intelligence feces data, 2) water usage, 3) number of related complaints, and 4) number of repairs. **Project Budget:** Estimated budget needs and current funding for all four Phases of the Project are detailed in the tables following with Project estimates based upon installation of the Portland Loo at Broadhead Park (Phase I).



Portland Loo

Restroom Needs Identified along the Truckee River in Nevada
DRAFT – CONCEPTUAL – FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY – NOT FINAL

Number of Restrooms	Proposed Restroom Locations*	Property Owner	Project Phase	Funding Required [‡]
Phase I				
1	Brodhead Park*	City of Reno	Phase I	\$254,974
Phase II - with success from Phase I				
2	Fisherman's Park	City Sparks	Phase II	\$510,504
3	John Champion Park	City of Reno	Phase II	
Phase III - with success from Phase II				
4	City Plaza	City of Reno	Phase III	\$861,202
5	1 st Street near West Street Plaza	City of Reno	Phase III	
6	Lundsford Park	City of Reno	Phase III	
Phases IV - with success from Phase III				
7	Mayberry Park	Washoe County	Phase IV	\$1,047,426
8	Veteran's Parkway river crossing	City Sparks	Phase IV	
9	River bridge just N. of 1-80 on west side of the river in the Wadworth area	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	Phase IV	
Total				\$2,674,106

**Listed above are the nine proposed locations for restroom installation, which were prioritized to improve water quality and address public need. Additional locations have been identified where installation of a public restroom would likely improve water quality conditions.
[‡]Funding requirements include the cost for the equipment/materials, installation, and maintenance of the facility and community engagement.*

Project Funding Secured as of 10/21/19

Funder	Use	Amount
Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space – SQ-1 funding	Restroom capital <i>**subject to Washoe County and TMWA Board approval**</i>	\$286,973
Truckee Meadows Water Authority	Project support	\$150,000
Truckee River Fund (TRF) #221	Project oversight, capacity building, and neighborhood community engagement activities	\$107,976
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection	Funding for OTR Partnership Coordinator's engagement (\$31,200) and funding for Phase I River Ambassador (\$32,168)	\$63,368
TRF #221	OTR fiscal agent Nevada Land Trust allotted a portion of their admin funds for TRF #221 to Phase I restroom maintenance	\$17,000
Washoe County Health District	Restroom maintenance and Sharps containers for inside two restrooms	\$15,800
Renown Health	Restroom maintenance	\$13,000
Total Secured as of 10/21/19		\$652,317

Funding Secured – Phase I* – Scheduled to start Spring 2020

Expenses	TMWA Funds Secured	County Funds Secured <i>(subject to County and TMWA Board approval)</i>	Funds Secured from Renown Health, NLT (TRF), and NDEP	Total
Restroom purchase (\$113,250 per restroom x 1 restroom)		\$113,250		\$113,250
Installation at Brodhead Park at \$73,000	\$73,000			\$73,000
Maintenance (\$26,556 per yr. per restroom x 1 restroom) to be carried to Phase II budget		\$6,556	\$20,000	\$26,556
Repair costs (\$10,000 per restroom x 1 restroom)			\$10,000	\$10,000
River Ambassador (\$32,168 for part-time staff member for one year)			\$32,168	\$32,168
Total	\$73,000	\$119,806	\$62,168	\$254,974

**The City of Reno is exploring entering into a perpetual agreement with TMWA to install the Project's first new restroom launching Phase I in Brodhead Park on City of Reno property.*

Funding Required – Phase II* – Start June 2021 with funding and perpetuity in place

Expenses	TMWA Funds Secured	County Funds Secured <i>(subject to County and TMWA Board approval)</i>	Requesting Funding	Total
Restroom purchase (\$113,250 per restroom x 2 restrooms)		\$175,523	\$50,977	\$226,500
Installation at Fisherman's Park (\$50,000) and John Champion Park (\$60,000)	\$77,000		\$33,000	\$110,000
Maintenance (\$26,556 per yr. per restroom x 2 restrooms + Phase I restroom expense) to be carried to Phase III budget		\$7,444	\$72,224	\$79,668
Repair costs (\$10,000 per restroom x 3 restroom)			\$30,000	\$30,000
River Ambassador (\$64,336 1 full-time staff member for one year)			\$64,336	\$64,336
Total	\$77,000	\$181,167	\$250,537	\$510,504

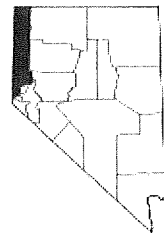
**A perpetuity between all relevant parties need to be established for properties to install and start Phase II.*

Funding Required – Phase III* – Start June 2022 with funding and perpetuity in place		
Expenses	Requesting Funding	Total
Restroom purchase (\$113,250 per restroom x 3 restrooms)	\$339,750	\$339,750
Installation at City Plaza (\$100,000), 1 st Street near West Street Plaza (\$60,000), and Lundsford (\$50,000)	\$210,000	\$210,000
Maintenance (\$26,556 per yr. per restroom x 3 restrooms x 2 restrooms from Phase I and II) to be carried to Phase III budget	\$132,780	\$132,780
Repair costs (\$10,000 per restroom x 5 restrooms)	\$50,000	\$50,000
River Ambassador (\$64,336 per 1 full-time staff for one year)	\$128,672	\$128,672
Total	\$861,202	\$861,202
<i>*A perpetuity between all relevant parties need to be established for properties to install and start Phase III.</i>		

Funding Required – Phase IV* – Start June 2023 with funding and perpetuity in place		
Expenses	Requesting Funding	Total
Restroom purchase (\$113,250 per restroom x 3 restrooms)	\$339,750	\$339,750
Installation at Mayberry Park (\$80,000), Veteran's Parkway (\$70,000) and river bridge just N. of 1-80 on west side of the river in the Wadworth area (\$100,000) <i>*Wadworth estimate is still in process</i>	\$250,000	\$250,000
Maintenance (\$26,556 per yr. per restroom x 3 restrooms x 6 restrooms from phase I, II, and III)	\$239,004	\$239,004
Repair costs (\$10,000 per restroom x 9 restroom)	\$90,000	\$90,000
River Ambassador (\$64,336 per 1 full-time staff for one year)	\$128,672	\$128,672
Total	\$1,047,426	\$1,047,426
<i>*A perpetuity between all relevant parties need to be established for properties to install and start Phase IV.</i>		

**TECHNICAL REPORT
UCED 2015/16-20**

**A SUMMARY OF SOCIAL ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE 2016
ONE TRUCKEE RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN**



UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

**A SUMMARY OF SOCIAL ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE 2016
ONE TRUCKEE RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Richard Bartholet

and

Frederick A. Steinmann

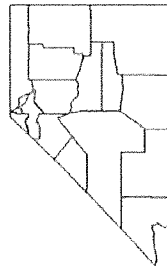
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May 2016

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1.0 Introduction

In December 2015, the University Center for Economic Development was contracted by CFA, Inc. to examine the various social issues pertaining to the development of the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan. As part of this planning effort, University Center for Economic Development faculty examined various aspects of the social issues pertaining to the development of the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan. Currently, the portion of the Truckee River corridor included into the first phase of the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan contains a mix of uses. This corridor is used for recreation purposes by area residents and visitors, contains a mix of residential and commercial land uses, and is also populated by a number of encampments occupied by a significant number of the area's homeless population. The University Center for Economic Development was contracted by CFA, Inc. to (1) explore program and policy options designed to divert homeless individuals and families away from using this portion of the Truckee River corridor to supportive mental health, physical care, and housing services, and (2) report on the findings and recommendations of the Social Issues Committee formed as part of the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan project.

1.1 Overview

From the onset of the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan initiative, beginning with the One Truckee River Management Plan Stakeholder Forum held on September 30, 2015, it has been apparent that social issues, perceived as primarily associated with homelessness, are central to the concerns surrounding the Truckee River corridor area identified in the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan and throughout the Truckee Meadows.

The current organization of topics for the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan includes:

1. Ensure and protect water quality and ecosystem health in the Truckee River.
2. Create and sustain a safe, beautiful and accessible Truckee River connecting people and places.
3. Build an aware and engaged community that protects and cares for the Truckee River.
4. Ensure the measurable, sustainable and collaborative management of the Truckee River for today and into the future.

Directly or indirectly, each of these categories involve addressing program and policy issues directed toward the region's homeless population and their continued use of the Truckee River as temporary housing, yet only one committee, Social Issues, specifically addressed homelessness. The Social Issues Committee, formed as part of the One Truckee River Management Plan

Stakeholder Forum held on September 30, 2015, identified four primary planning and policy areas directed toward the region's homeless population. These primary planning and policy areas included (1) an understanding of the underlying reasons for homelessness, (2) identification of the various cohorts of homeless people, (3) consideration of the complexity of the problem and, finally, (4) the efficacy of various homeless programs in the region and across the country.

From the start, it has been generally recognized that the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan would not endeavor to directly manage or treat homelessness. The 2016 One Truckee River Management plan would, however, examine what was being done to provide appropriate supportive mental health, physical care, and housing services, what else might be done to improve the overall management and mitigation of homelessness along the Truckee River corridor and throughout the Truckee Meadows, the impacts of the homeless on the Truckee River corridor, and how adoption, implementation and administration of the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan could support those entities that were directly and effectively working to provide comprehensive interventions.

University Center for Economic Development faculty began by investigating the efforts of other communities in addressing a population with comparable challenges regarding a homeless population with various mental and physical health concerns, substance abuse disorders, and various co-occurring disorders. This assessment of program and policy actions taken by other communities began with a review of best practices published by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/local_progress). Using this site as a general guide, University Center for Economic Development faculty examined the efforts of local governments, in partnership with various other local, state, and federal government agencies and various for-profit and non-profit entities and non-governmental agencies in Denver, Colorado, Hennepin County (Minneapolis), Minnesota, and Portland, Oregon. Two general insights were gained from this initial analysis, including:

1. These three ten-year plans to end homelessness, which have been in effect for ten years, have not resulted in the end of homelessness in these communities. Depending upon the underlying conditions and circumstances, homelessness can sometimes be quickly reversed, often mitigated, undoubtedly better managed, but probably not eliminated; and
2. The plans have been effective in reducing both homelessness and unsheltered populations. All three plans include a continuum of housing (typically consisting of a mixture of emergency shelters, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, etc.) to address different cohorts and aspects of homelessness, in combination with supportive services.

While the "housing first" approach is included in all of the plans, each and every plan recognizes the need to combine housing with supportive services. Each plan includes an element for data collection and analysis. Examples from the three plans in Denver, Colorado, Hennepin County (Minneapolis), Minnesota, and Portland, Oregon regarding data collection, analysis, and evaluation include:

-
1. Denver, Colorado: “Evaluation – Accountability”.
 2. Hennepin County (Minneapolis), Minnesota: “Develop a system to track and evaluate progress on the Ten-Year Plan”.
 3. Portland, Oregon: “...implement new data collection technology throughout the homeless system”.

Current efforts in Washoe County, designed to provide the region’s homeless population with supportive mental health care, physical care, and supportive housing services, best aligns with the best practices of each of these three jurisdictions. One notable exception, unique to Washoe County’s current efforts, is the Crossroads program.

Washoe County’s Crossroads program is unique in three separate ways from the plans from Denver, Hennepin County, and Portland. First, Washoe County’s Crossroads program has an emphasis on personal safety and security for the clients. The Washoe County Sheriff’s Office has permanently assigned two Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Deputies to both patrol the Crossroads site and proactively and positively engage with the program’s residents. Second, the Washoe County Crossroads program emphasizes a personal accountability requirement of the Crossroads program residents in addition to holding partner service provider agencies accountable for their continued participation. Third, Washoe County’s Crossroads program has no specific time limit on the amount of time a Crossroads program client may spend at Crossroads. Typically, most “long-term” transitional programs limit an individual client’s stay to between six and 12 months. Crossroads has determined that the use of a specific time limit on the amount of time a client may stay at Crossroads does not work for people who have been homeless or without a permanent fixed address for extended periods of time. As a result of these three unique differences from other continuum of care or ten-year plans to end homelessness, Washoe County’s Crossroads program is being cited as a best practices model.

1.2 Background

If the use of law enforcement, river rangers and camping prohibitions along the Truckee River were the solution, there would not still be a problem with homelessness along the Truckee River corridor. River sweeps and clean-up programs designed to remove homeless encampments along the river are only temporary treatments. Unless individuals who are required to change their places of habitation are provided with alternative places to go with wrap-around supportive services to address the underlying reasons as to why they are homeless, using law enforcement, river arrangements and camping prohibitions merely result in temporary dislocations of the homeless population. Temporary dislocations simply shift the problems associated with homeless from the Truckee River corridor to other parts of the community or other parts of the Truckee River corridor. This temporary dislocation phenomenon is not unlike blowing the leaves from one person’s yard onto the street or into a neighbor’s yard.

Chronically homeless individuals typically exhibit a combination of mental illness, addiction to gambling, drugs, alcohol, or most commonly, some combination of the above conditions. This

combination of conditions, known as a co-occurring disorder, often results in the loss of basic life skills needed to lead what might be described as a more normal lifestyle. Homeless individuals who are not classified as chronically homeless typically have milder degrees of some of these same issues and/or are financially illiterate. The working poor often live paycheck to paycheck, and it takes only one incident such as losing their job, having their car break down, or a sudden and significant health issue to trigger a homeless episode. Many individuals who currently use the region's weekly motels transition in and out of homelessness based upon their current week-to-week or day-to-day financial condition.

2.0 Local Progress in Managing Related Social Issues

Significant progress has been made in developing a variety of effective programs and policies for addressing homelessness in the Reno-Sparks-Washoe County region. Unfortunately, resource constraints have prevented the various local government and non-profit private sector and non-governmental service providers from expanding some of the programs that have shown to be successful in providing supportive mental health, physical care, and housing services as an intervention strategy.

2.1 Past Research and Program and Policy Recommendations

In a collaborative paper published in 2008 by the University of Nevada, Reno's Center for Regional Studies and the University of Nevada, Reno's Bureau of Business & Economic Research, based upon research completed in a 2007 regional homeless study for Washoe County, four primary program and policy recommendations were made, including:

1. **Recommendation No. 1: Segmentation of the Homeless Population, with Separate Program Development, Service Delivery and with Results Reported by Segment**

This recommendation naturally follows the understanding that homelessness is a symptom of underlying problems and conditions, with substantially different desired outcomes and vastly different sets of resources and mitigating measures needed to address the various and different underlying problems. The 2007 University of Nevada, Reno interdisciplinary research team concluded that segregating the populations, based upon the identification of various underlying conditions, could vastly improve the understanding of homelessness and the homeless population within the region and the effectiveness of the program and policy solutions. This recommendation further recognized that this approach to segmentation of the population was desired by those homeless individuals and families who were not chronically homeless.

2. **Recommendation No. 2: Complete and Add System Components Needed for Immediate Interventions**

This recommendation included several key program and policy actions including the completion of the Community Assistance Center, the provision of additional transitional supportive housing, and increased focused attention on and new program development targeting those homeless individuals who are high frequency users of services from various mental healthcare, physical healthcare, and housing service providers as well as high users of the area's first responder systems, judicial systems, and detention facility.

This recommendation further stated that certain new system components and services could have an immediate or short-term positive effect of relieving pressure on other public services.

3. Recommendation No. 3: Make Needed “System-Level” Improvements

This recommendation included several key program and policy actions including a recommendation to implement a data system for tracking individuals across all service providers or better integrating and connecting existing data systems, a requirement that service providers measure their performance in-terms of measurable outcomes, for example a reduction in the number of emergency shelter stays by an individual, as opposed to using inputs to measure performance, for example providing a certain number of available beds for homeless individual, and that system managers measure and continuously improve the effectiveness and strength of the linkages between various services providers operating through the region.

This recommendation is most targeted to the underlying purpose of developing cost-effective approaches to permanent supportive housing as part of the 2007 University of Nevada, Reno Center for Regional Studies and Bureau of Business & Economic Research study. It is applicable to the cost-effectiveness of all other components of the network of homeless service providers. To be able to measure cost-effectiveness, this recommendation must be implemented. This recommendation is critical to the ability of system managers to intelligently manage the programs and to effectively and efficiently allocate resources. Finally, in order to develop the political support needed to obtain additional resources, the public and their elected representatives need to know that resources are being efficiently utilized and are making a difference, which requires implementation of the measures included in this recommendation.

4. Recommendation No. 4: Improve the Weekly Motel Environment for Safety and Security

This recommendation included a series of program and policy actions including an expansion of the City of Reno’s Motel Interdiction Team, expansion of the City of Reno Police Department’s guest registration information process, required improvement in public lighting on the property of the weekly motels, the required installation and use of video security systems at the weekly motels including retention of the captured video for a certain period of time, and required City of Reno Police Department issued police cards for motel managers subject to background checks.

This recommendation was developed due to the absence of readily available standard affordable and/or supportive housing. While the area’s weekly motels are not transitional supportive housing, they continue to serve as de facto transitional housing to individuals and families who would otherwise be homeless at the time of this publication. Although this was not initially a recommendation, but given the unexpected findings of this study, the sheer number of weekly motel units, the indication of the low level of safety and security evidenced by the crime statistics compelled this recommendation. This

recommendation was made in order to help alleviate a major part of the problem facing those individuals who move in and out of homelessness and for whom the weekly motels may be the only option preventing them from living on the street or in homeless shelters. The safety and security of individuals living in weekly motels is a problem that needs to be addressed, and can be addressed with a relatively limited public resources.¹

2.2 Current Progress and Implementation of Past Research and Program and Policy Recommendations

During early One Truckee River project discussions, professional staff currently working in the Truckee Meadows for various public sector and non-profit private sector and non-governmental homeless-related service providers, upon review of the 2007 regional homeless study completed for Washoe County by the University of Nevada, Reno's Center for Regional Studies and the University of Nevada, Reno's Bureau of Business & Economic Research indicated that some of the most important and impactful recommendations had been or were being implemented and that some of the recommendations that had not yet been implemented should still be implemented. Current program on each of the recommendations listed in the above section include:

1. Recommendation No. 1: Segmentation of the Homeless Population, with Separate Program Development, Service Delivery and with Results Reported by Segment

While there is no segregation occurring at the emergency centers, specifically at the Community Assistance Center and the Overflow Shelter, the local entities and service providers have begun to recognize specific cohorts that are provided significantly different services and housing based upon needs, conditions and life-skills capacities of homeless individuals and families over the last few years. Examples of cohorts with specific intervention programs include the chronically homeless, those that have become recently homeless, and families living in weekly motels.

2. Recommendation No. 2: Complete and Add System Components Needed for Immediate Interventions

The Community Assistance Center has been completed. During its operation, management and staff have been engaged in a process of continuous improvement, which has included emulating programs and policies that have proven to be efficient and effective in other cities along with trial-and-error during program and policy implementation at the Community Assistance Center. One important lesson learned included the importance of having an overflow shelter year-round, and not for just those

¹ Bartholet, Richard, G. Atkinson, C. Gill, T. Harris, A. Hubbert, M. Nichols, F. Steinmann, "Examination of the Costs of Homelessness and Issues Related to Determining the Cost-Effectiveness of Supporting Services and Housing in Washoe County, NV: Study Overview & Synthesis," 2007, Center for Regional Studies and Bureau of Business & Economic Research, University of Nevada, Reno, p. 16-18, <http://unrbusinessresearch.org/representative-projects/>

periods of severe inclement weather, especially for chronically homeless men who would have used an alternative location to shelter such as an encampment along the river, in parks, and on other public and private properties. Unfortunately the Overflow Shelter used for the past few years was vandalized and can no longer be used. The City of Reno is searching for a new overflow shelter facility but has not yet found a suitable substitute.

Transitional supportive housing is one of the region's most notable successes. During the Great Recession of 2008 and 2009, Washoe County decided to redirect funds, which were being utilized to pay monthly stipends to registered indigents, into a program that provided these individuals with a roof and a bed in conjunction with wrap-around services. Wrap-around services is a broad term, which in the case of Crossroads, includes personal security that was perceived to not exist at other homeless facilities, mental-health and substance abuse/addiction counseling, training and support to help those capable to find employment, other life-skills training, all accompanied by monitoring for drug and alcohol usage. The objective is to start the clients along a pathway into a different lifestyle than they were experiencing during the most recent portion of their lives, sometimes measured in decades of homelessness. Catholic Charities, which owns and operates the Crossroads facilities, is a key partner. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office, the Municipal and County Specialty Courts, and a number of other entities participated in helping develop and evolve Crossroads into a cutting edge program that is being cited nationally as one of the best models for dealing with chronic homelessness.

The Crossroads program specifically sought to provide services to the "super utilizers" of services, which were those chronically homeless individuals with the most interaction with the region's criminal justice system and health-care system. This focus on super utilizers was made for two reasons. First, these individuals represented the toughest test of the efficacy of the program, and, second, government could achieve the greatest societal and monetary savings if interventions with these individuals could be successful.

Other supportive housing programs, which were not specifically included in the 2007 University of Nevada, Reno study recommendations, have since been developed, added, and implemented and are currently being administered by various public sector and non-profit private sector and non-governmental agencies and entities

3. Recommendation No. 3: Make Needed "System-Level" Improvements

The Homeless Management Information System has been fully implemented. All funded service providers are required to use the system. The City of Reno implemented the Homeless Management Information System in northern Nevada and, in 2015, contracted with Bitfocus, a firm headquartered in Las Vegas, Nevada, to administer the program. Clients are issued plastic cards, known as Clarity Cards, which contain the clients' personal identifier and information. All that is needed for data entry and for any client to access services is for the client to swipe their card when accessing those services. This process and procedure has dramatically reduced both the time and cost of data entry.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of Reno, Washoe County, the State of Nevada, and others now have real-time access to critical data regarding system and program implementation and administration, allowing for better analysis of aggregate demand loads for various services, which individuals are accessing which services, rates of recidivism, and other outcomes associated with program design and service delivery. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and pertinent state and federal law, require that individual personal information be kept confidential. This, however, does not restrict those entitled to the data from developing more and better analyses of how the service delivery and provision system is working, where it is not working, and where and how it might be improved. It may be worthwhile for there to be a review of the analyses being done in order to determine if more sophisticated analyses could be helpful in resource allocation and/or improvements in the network of service providers.

4. Recommendation No. 4: Improve the Weekly Motel Environment for Safety and Security

The City of Reno Police Department's Motel Interdiction Team no longer exists due in large part to the budget considerations and realities of the Great Recession of 2008 and 2009. However, the issues related to weekly motels in the 2007 regional homeless study prepared for Washoe County has received increased attention from policy makers and government officials over the last couple of years.

Some of the individuals perceived as homeless by the general public may not be unsheltered but are, instead, using the weekly motels located throughout the region as a form of temporary, transitional or even permanent housing. Many of the perceptions about the prevalence of homelessness in the Truckee Meadows, and the impacts of homelessness, may be attributable to individuals who are residing in the weekly motels and also engage in panhandling and other behaviors typically attributed to homeless individuals. Additionally, some of the weekly rental properties, due to their either negligent or predatory management practices, make life more difficult for the vulnerable populations who make up their customer base.

The City of Reno has been examining the impact of some of the weekly motels on the City, on other property owners and businesses, and upon the motels' own customers. The City has been in an extended process of determining how code enforcement, law enforcement, and social service providers can help mitigate some of these circumstances. Additionally, the City of Reno is contracting with Catholic Charities on a program, currently known as Motels to Home, specifically designed to move families out of weekly motels into monthly rental housing.

It is important to note that the weekly motels, while generally considered substandard housing, serve as "shelter of last resort", used prior to the emergency shelter for many individuals, including the working poor. There is a great concern that the combination of requiring health and safety upgrades, as well as gentrification, may result in the elimination of some of these weekly motel units, or pricing them beyond the means of the

people who currently occupy those units. These changes could potentially exacerbate and increase the size and complexity of the region's existing homeless population. It is reported that there are now waiting lists for some of the weekly motels and that it is becoming harder for some of the "service providers" to find housing for the lowest of their low-income clients.

In short, much progress has been made since the 2007 regional homeless study for Washoe County was completed but much more needs to be done. Through emulating successful programs in other communities and through trial and error, the various public sector and non-profit private sector and non-governmental service providers in the Truckee Meadows are achieving increasingly better results with their homeless intervention efforts but additional resources are needed.

3.0 Social Issues Recommendations for the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan

The Social Issues Committee of the One Truckee River Management Plan stakeholder group met and created a list of additional steps that should be taken, many in the short-term of one year or sooner. It is important to note that for each and every objective listed below, the appropriate role identified, relative to the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan, is *support*, rather than any direct intervention, management, funding or equivalent levels of involvement. The envisioned involvement of the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan will be to continue to monitor the successes and failures in managing homelessness and mitigating the impacts of homelessness along the impacted Truckee River corridor. Metrics that could be useful in monitoring success might include the point-in-time homeless census that occurs every January, numbers of arrests for offenses primarily associated with homelessness, counts of encampments along the Truckee River corridor, self-reported nights spent living along the Truckee River, and other similar types of measures that may be identified from time to time. The identified objectives are outlined in this section.

3.1 Expand the Continuum of Housing Options

Expansion of the continuum of housing options, which currently includes emergency shelters such as the Community Assistance Center and the Overflow Shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing, should be pursued. Efforts for expanding the continuum of supportive housing are currently ongoing. The three primary categories traditionally have been emergency shelter, including the Community Assistance Center and Overflow Shelter, transitional supportive housing, including Crossroads, and permanent supportive housing, including U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funded housing vouchers. Additionally, other programs that could be considered as elements of the continuum of supportive housing are Rapid Re-Housing and Motels to Homes. Each of these options is associated with one of the social issues objectives described below.

3.1.a Support Commitment to the Continuation of the Current Practice of Keeping the Overflow Shelter Open Year-Round

The City of Reno has learned that when the overflow shelter was not open, during the time of year when freezing temperatures were no longer an issue, those individuals that had been using the overflow shelter migrated to locations that were not suitable for habitation, including camping along the river. The community is better served by having the overflow shelter available year round. The local governments are also better able to enforce laws related to no-camping restrictions, no sleeping in public parks, and other established policies and procedures only when they can provide an alternative location. The current vandalism which made the recent Overflow Shelter uninhabitable has created a current crisis for the City of Reno. A

portion of a storage area at the Community Assistance Center is being used temporarily to meet overflow requirements but a new permanent overflow shelter facility is needed as soon as possible. Washoe County and the City of Reno and the City of Sparks are working collaboratively and individually to meet the need for a permanent overflow facility with some supportive services.

3.1.b Create Another Facility, like Crossroads, with Law Enforcement and Social Services Staff

Crossroads is a transitional housing facility and program. The efficacy of Crossroads is so compelling that most of the Social Issues Committee of the One Truckee River Management Plan stakeholder group believed that the community would benefit significantly if a way could be found to support twice as many beds with the appurtenant supportive services, accountability and security measures. A number of entities are actively working on the expansion of Crossroads-like transitional housing, with Washoe County taking the lead through the Washoe County Social Services Department and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. Currently, there is no "new money" allocated in the Washoe County budget for expansion of Crossroads. Advocacy for a budget increase for Crossroads from the One Truckee River Management Plan stakeholder group could be very helpful in securing a budget increase approved by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners. Past funding for Crossroads by Washoe County has resulted in significant savings in other services.

3.1.c Support the City of Reno's On-Going effort to Create More Scattered Sites for Permanent Supportive Housing Projects and Expansion to Other Jurisdictions

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is focused entirely on permanent supportive housing rather than transitional housing. Through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of Reno provides rental assistance programs and the Reno Housing Authority administers the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, the Project Based Voucher program, and the Moderate Rehabilitation program.

These voucher programs offer various housing subsidies that are tied either to the tenant or directly to the housing unit. Operation Downtown, the City of Reno Mayor's blue ribbon task force, has begun discussions to expand case management services and to set aside units in new housing developments to be used for permanent supportive housing for those at the low income and chronically low income poverty levels. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently amended the Reno Housing Authority's Annual Plan, allowing the Reno Housing Authority to allocate up to 50 Project Based Vouchers for homeless individuals and families, which will be coupled with case management services. Significant challenges for the voucher programs in finding housing for homeless individuals, for example the Housing Choice Program, include, first, that there is a long waiting list, and, second, while there is a homeless preference, anyone with a criminal history or a registered sex offender is not eligible.

3.1.d Rapid Re-Housing

One of the lessons learned from other communities is that when people, especially families, first become homeless, a relatively small amount of support is needed to put them back into a

permanent residence. The City of Reno started a homeless prevention and rapid rehousing program in 2009, using funds provided by the federal government via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Once these federal funds had been depleted, the City of Reno began using Emergency Solutions Grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, leveraged with state Trust Fund money from the State of Nevada, to continue the program.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determined, and the City of Reno has since confirmed, that people first entering homelessness, when provided some financial support and case management for about four to six months, will typically self-resolve. When people first apply for assistance, an assessment is done in order to determine if the individual is a good fit for the rapid rehousing program. Some people are assessed as needing permanent supportive housing due to underlying mental health and/or addiction issues. Those who are assessed as needing short-term case management and financial assistance are able to enter into the Rapid Re-Housing program. Since the City of Reno initiated this program in 2009, approximately 70 individuals have entered the rapid re-housing program. Of these, only two have regressed back into homelessness.

3.1.e Motels to Home

The Motels to Home program is a relatively new program created by the City of Reno. The City Council approved a contract with Catholic Charities with an expenditure of \$100,000 in June 2015. In October 2015, Catholic Charities began an outreach program for families living in weekly motels in order to help them transition to monthly rental affordable housing and case management. Since October 2015, Catholic Charities have helped over a dozen families make this transition. One of the lessons learned since implementation of the Motels to Home program is that the process should begin with case management while the families are still residing in the weekly motels rather than waiting until they have moved into the more permanent monthly rental affordable housing. While still in the early stages, this appears to be an effective program and an efficient use of resources for addressing homelessness. Because children residing in weekly motels are classified as homeless by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the One Truckee River Management Plan implementation group should monitor the Motels to Home program and look for opportunities to support successes achieved by the program.

3.2 Continue to Coordinate with Washoe County Regional Animal Services to Care for Pets of the Homeless and Connect with Case Workers

In March 2016, Washoe County Regional Animal Services teamed with the Nevada Humane Society to provide free dog and cat vaccinations and microchips for pets of homeless residents of Washoe County. Pet licensing and registration was also provided for a fee in order to help reunite animals if lost and to provide proof of ownership. The Nevada Humane Society was available to hand out pet food and pet supplies. The only requirement to receive these services was proof of a Clarity Card. This was the first animal services outreach event for the region's homeless population and the feedback was well received. Records indicate that 86 pets received services in March 2016, including rabies shots, vaccinations and microchipping. Washoe

County Regional Animal Services plans to continue these efforts by providing similar clinics to the homeless population at least twice a year. In addition, Washoe County Regional Animal Services is teaming with other animal services providers and targeting coordinated outreach events to the homeless on a monthly basis

3.3 Create a Mental Health Facility that Provides Same-Day Access to Mental Health and Additional Services

The Community Assistance Center currently has a triage center that provides local law enforcement with an alternative to jail for people who seem to be suffering from a mental health episode, a substance abuse episode, or most commonly, both. The triage center at the Community Assistance Center has evolved into an inpatient stabilization facility but does not provide comprehensive same-day out-patient mental health and related services.

The purpose of a same-day access center is to provide out-patient services for people who need to connect with mental health services for any number of reasons including needing to refill a prescription or needing to get access to a mental health and/or substance abuse service provider. This facility would serve people who might be unable and/or unlikely to otherwise make a connection with a service provider. It is important to remember that people who are homeless or who have been homeless, who do not have an automobile, who if working may not have schedule flexibility during the day, and who are suffering from depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, anxiety or some other similar symptom of mental illness, will have an extremely difficult time making it to doctor appointments which are typically scheduled weeks in advance. A mental health facility that provides clients with same day access to mental health providers would eliminate many of the barriers faced by the homeless and working poor populations and would allow them to access immediate critical care services.

The target population can no longer utilize the Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services facility for same-day access to prescribed medications and mental health services. Under current Medicaid policy and program guidelines, the target population must go to one of two managed-care organizations currently located within the region. Generally, this population does not understand how insurance or managed care works. Understanding managed care and following the prescribed guidelines is especially difficult for mentally-ill homeless individuals to navigate and follow.

3.4 Implement Multi-Jurisdictional Case Management to Assist Individuals with Access to Housing and Other Resources

Washoe County is actively working on implementing a multi-jurisdictional case management system designed to assist individuals in need of housing assistance and other resources. Washoe County is redirecting existing Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals grant dollars in order to create and implement a multi-jurisdictional case management system and anticipates getting approval from the Federal Program Officer. These case managers should

meet regularly with Washoe County staff responsible for adult services in order to ensure that the available resources are coordinated and to share information across multiple service providers. The goal will be to assist clients in navigating the system of the many service providers that provide critical mental health, physical care, and housing services. The City of Reno issued a Request for Proposal for Community Based Case Management Services and is awaiting proposals.

3.5 Create a Collaborative Group to Focus Case Management and Law Enforcement on the Truckee River

Washoe County is working to find funding to expand the Mobile Outreach Safety Team to include additional officers and deputies and case managers. Washoe County, together with the Cities of Reno and Sparks, recently submitted a grant proposal to the Bureau of Justice Assistance to fund expansion of the Mobile Outreach Safety Team program, plus development of a more robust effort for data collection and analysis. Officers, deputies, and case managers assigned to the Mobile Outreach Safety Team would be involved in regularly scheduled sweeps of the river corridor, creating opportunities to engage with homeless individuals in need, and to provide direction on other opportunities and services as they are instructed that camping along the river corridor is not permitted.

3.6 Identify Specific Strategies to Address Youth Homelessness

Homeless youths are not currently believed to be part of the Truckee River corridor encampment problem. Additionally, youth homelessness is significantly different from adult homelessness in a number of critical ways. The 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan will work with other entities, for example The Community Foundation of Western Nevada, to identify the best ways to improve services to homeless youth and work to support such efforts to better address youth homelessness.

3.7 Reno Works Program

Reno Works, created in August 2015, is a relatively new joint employment program by Volunteers of America and the City of Reno that has already provided 21 residents of the homeless shelters with nine-week sessions to address temporary employment including safety and work training, skills training, long-term employment support, wrap-around case management, and mentoring. Upon completion of the program, Reno Works Program crew members receive certification of program completion and a letter of recommendation. The goal is for each crew member to secure employment and permanent housing. More information about the Reno Works program can be found on the City of Reno's website at <http://www.reno.gov/home/showdocument?id=52142>[reno.gov]

Initial results of the Reno Works Program look promising and appear to have demonstrated an ability to provide employment and training to residents of the homeless shelter and to also help get other homeless individuals connected with services and programs. A side benefit is that the participants of the Reno Works Program seem to be able to identify with the homeless population because they have experienced a past recent episode of temporary or transitional homelessness or, in some cases, periods of long-term homelessness. The homeless population appears to be more receptive to talking to participants of the Reno Works Program rather than law enforcement officials. A critical missing piece from the Reno Works Program is case management personnel who can go out in the field and work alongside the Reno Works employees in order to better assess and address the homeless individuals' needs and to identify the appropriate programs and services that may be best suited for them. The One Truckee River Management Plan stakeholder group should continue to monitor the Reno Works Program and identify opportunities to support successes achieved by the program.

4.0 Summary

The purpose of this University Center for Economic Development Technical Report is to provide the organization or organizations eventually responsible for implementation and administration of the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan with a series of options for addressing the various social issues enumerated in the plan. This University Center for Economic Development Technical Report further identifies the potential roles that the One Truckee River Management Plan stakeholder group, and the entities, organizations, and/or jurisdictions eventually responsible for adoption, implementation, and administration of the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan, can play in addressing the various social issues enumerated in the plan and in this technical report.

4.1 Conclusions and Observations

The One Truckee River Management Plan, in order to be successful, will need to rely upon local government and non-governmental organization service providers in order to continue to provide a continuum of supportive housing options so that the homeless population has better alternatives than camping along the river. Periodic sweeps of the river corridor should be perceived as opportunities for case managers and law enforcement, working together, to interact and intercede with the homeless individuals. Interaction with homeless people at the downtown library, in emergency rooms, and at the emergency shelters can reduce the number of people who decide to camp along the river corridor.

For this plan to be effective, all three local governmental entities, including Washoe County, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks, need to take ownership of the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan. The Truckee River is a linear park running through the Truckee Meadows, connecting the many parks already dedicated along the Truckee River corridor. For local residents and visitors to fully enjoy the scenic and recreational opportunities associated with the Truckee River, there must be commitment to this effort.

As this applies to homelessness, proactive efforts by the local communities and the non-governmental organizations benefit the Truckee River corridor and spill over to improving other parts of each jurisdiction, individual communities, and the region as a whole.

An effective role for the One Truckee River Management Plan stakeholder group in regard to social issues along the Truckee River corridor, both as a stand-alone group and through working with other community partners, should include an educational role targeted towards the business and economic development communities as well as towards local citizens, on the following topics:

1. The complexities of homelessness;

-
2. The direct and indirect costs associated with not proactively addressing homelessness;
 3. The efficacy of the range of supportive housing programs, ensuring understanding of the need for integration of the wrap-around services as key to these programs; and
 4. The cost-effectiveness of allocating more resources to the mitigation and management of homelessness.

Successful engagement with the business and economic development communities, through an educational role, by the One Truckee River Management Plan stakeholder group on each of these issues will contribute to the successful implementation and administration of the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan.

Iris Jehle-Peppard
One Truckee River's Partnership Coordinator
2601 Plumas Street
Reno, NV 89509

The Honorable Hillary Schieve
Mayor of the City of Reno
1 East First Street
Reno, NV 89501

October 8, 2019

Dear Honorable Mayor Schieve,

Thank you for being part of the team to develop a comprehensive plan to address the dire conditions along the Truckee River within the City of Reno. With building the plan in mind, I share with you my ideas and perspectives for what is needed now. My thoughts are not of the One Truckee River (OTR) partnership as a whole, since OTR is a collaborative partnership of diverse perspectives, they are mine personally with One Truckee River's mission in mind "*to ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable river connected to the hearts and minds of its community*".

As work continues to secure long-term funding, I see value in analyzing the details surrounding the human-centered challenges along the river. With this in mind, I suggest these next steps to address the dire conditions and following I provide additional background for each of my recommendations. With so many complicated challenges along the river, the Phase I OTR Management Plan is a great asset for us today. This plan developed with 20+ local entities over many years was unanimously adopted by the three local jurisdictions in 2016 and today propels implementation with many local partners supported by 130+ stakeholders. My recommendations follow what the OTR Partnership Council prioritized at the end of 2017.

Action Item 1.3.c *Ensure adequate public restrooms along the Truckee River...*

- The City of Reno continuing to engage in perpetual agreements to address the dire conditions along the river
- Fund or assist in raising an additional \$252,000 needed for the River Restroom Project, Phase II

Action Item 2.1.e *Enhance Truckee River visitor safety, access, public facilities and education.*

Enhance safety

- Invest long-term in development east of downtown Reno to support revitalization
- Support One Truckee River Month
- Promote public events at the various parks along the river

Access

- Implement City codes that prioritize public access to the river
- Improve City property along the river to provide controlled access to the water's edge (i.e. stabilized steps and places for people to be at the water's edge)

Public facilities

- Install additional trash facilities that will encourage river users to dispose of waste properly, are resilient to a variety of challenges, and make river cleanups more effective
- Install Sharps containers in all urban parks
- Fund consistent, safe biohazard waste cleanups along the river in the City of Reno

Education

- Promote watershed education
- Support the development of a "Healthy River, Healthy People" campaign

Action Item 2.6.a *Expand the continuum of housing options, including a permanent overflow shelter, transitional housing, and access to permanent, supportive housing, including wrap around services needed to support residents.*

- Continue the process and take action from the OrgCode Consulting, Inc. work
- Start the separate code amendment process or include in the current Zoning Code RENOVation work to implement ongoing affordable housing initiatives mentioned in the "City of Reno Staff Report subject Zoning Code RENOVation Issue Sheet 2A from Arlo Stockham, Community Development Director" (7/31/19) D1.b page 2 Summary Table A: Preliminary Table of Development Standards Amendments
- Support the preservation and expansion of affordable housing options with services when needed such as Northern Nevada HOPES Hope Springs tiny house project and consider the development of a similar shelter to the Dignity Village homeless shelter system in Portland, OR

Background information on my recommendations

Illegal camping: While local law enforcement conducts arrests for illegal camping, there is minimal recourse to deter people from returning to the banks of the river after they are released. This creates a less than 12-hour revolving door dynamic. In April 2019, the US Ninth Circuit Court in *Martin v. City of Boise* upheld a decision that a municipality cannot arrest or punish people for sleeping on public property when no space is available in shelters or other indoor facilities. Surely "kicking them off the river" is not a long-term solution. It is an act that has ethical concerns and legal implications. Nevada is ranked third in the US for the highest number of unsheltered people behind California and Oregon. In 2017, Washoe County reported a 60% increase in homelessness. The Truckee Meadows region with a population of 500,000+ is forecasted to have 120,000 new residents by 2035. The challenges along the river will increase with this population growth.

Action Item 1.3.c Ensure adequate public restrooms along the Truckee River...

The River Restroom Project (Project) evolved out of this Action Item from past efforts, including the OTR Housing and Sanitation working group with representatives from the three jurisdictions, Community Foundation of Western Nevada, Downtown Reno Partnership, and local residents. The Project lays out Phases I to IV to establish nine public restrooms along the river in Nevada. Construction is slated to begin in Spring 2020 at Brodhead Park in the City of Reno.

The Project has raised \$620,149 for the pilot and Phase II from the Truckee River Fund, Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), Washoe County Regional Parks Open Space, Washoe County Health District, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, and Renown Health. Once launched, collaboration is planned with Downtown Reno Partnership, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB), Truckee Meadows Tomorrow, and Northern Nevada Recovery Alumni Association (NNRAA). The City of Reno entered into a perpetual agreement with TMWA to place the restroom within Brodhead Park. The effort has gained support letters from local businesses including Courtyard Marriott and Reno Aces. Recently, the NNRAA adopted Brodhead Park through KTMB's Adopt-a-Park program. Project partners plan to launch the pilot in Spring 2020 and must raise an additional \$252,000 for the Project's Phase II. The Project's proposed metrics (data to collect, track, and analyze quarterly) include 1) surrounding area DRP Street Intelligence feces data, 2) water usage, 3) number of related complaints, and 4) number of repairs.

Action Item 2.1.e Enhance Truckee River visitor safety, access, public facilities and education.

This Action Item includes the following:

- **Enhance safety** is focused on “neighborhood” safety along the river. A form of safety often secured consistently when there are “eyes on the street” (urbanist Jane Jacobs' term) meaning people serve unconsciously as a witness in lively, well-trafficked public spaces that serve as a deterrent to anyone contemplating a serious crime. We can use this idea to increase safety along the river. The whitewater park in downtown Reno is a great local example of “eyes on the river”. Family orientated activities along the river must be supported and promoted. May's OTR Month is one way that we as a community are accomplishing this along the Truckee River.
- **Access** to the Truckee River allows more people to enjoy the river and in turn, to support enhanced neighborhood safety.
- **Public facilities** are the basic building blocks of a complete public park and invites users from all walks of life to exercise and connect with nature and each other. Improving public park facilities builds community resilience, supports social cohesion, and improves public health. Other crucial public facilities beyond restrooms are trash facilities including Sharps containers.
 - **Biohazard waste** – In 2018, KTMB organized 12+ tons of trash removal from the Truckee River through volunteers' efforts. The City of Reno Parks and Recreation and Public Works also conduct river cleanups. It is my understanding these river cleanup groups are not equipped or trained to address biohazard waste and when biohazard waste is not cleaned up it can delay the non-biohazard cleanups. There is a vital

- need to ensure there are consistent biohazard cleanups along the river conducted by a qualified team.
- Additional trash facilities including more Sharps containers - In addition, more trash facilities are needed, including Sharps containers to support disposal of waste along the river. I hear from some that more trash cans will create more trash and individuals using hypodermic needles will not use Sharps containers. Yet, I firmly believe with research and outreach we can find locations and facilities to decrease the amount of trash left along on the river.
 - **Education** – KTMB’s watershed education reaches 1,800+ K-12 students in our region annually and additional nonprofits provide this education in the Truckee Meadows. In Spring 2020, through the River Restroom Project, Downtown Reno Partnership will be conducting outreach to the currently homeless population along the river near Brodhead Park and more activities are planned to connect with local residents in the surrounding neighborhood. It is time, as outlined in the Phase I OTR Management Plan, to launch a simple collaborative “Health River, Healthy People” campaign.

Action Item 2.6.a Expand the continuum of housing options, including a permanent overflow shelter, transitional housing, and access to permanent, supportive housing, including wrap around services needed to support residents.

This Action Item addresses the most central challenge round the dire conditions along the river. In 2018, the Department of Housing and Urban Development reported 7,544 people experiencing homeless in the state of Nevada and an estimated count of 1,000 to 1,600 people experiencing homelessness in the City of Reno and the City of Sparks. Homelessness has many negative impacts. Individuals experiencing homelessness are often traumatized from the experience and while homeless it becomes almost impossible without support for one to improve their position in life. There are community-wide negative impacts that go beyond seeing trash along the river. The article “*Paradise Lost: Homeless in Los Angeles*” (6/19/19) describes LA’s Skid Row, now covering 53-square blocks, now ridden with diseases such as tuberculosis, typhoid, and potentially the bubonic plague due to the large number of rats infesting the area.

I celebrate the OrgCode Consulting, Inc. work the jurisdictions (the City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County) are engaged with to address homelessness. I look forward to seeing coordinated actions taken from all three jurisdictions through this process to improve region-wide systems to address homelessness that will have a positive impact on the river.

As you know, the Truckee River provides 85% of the region’s drinking water and is a core natural resource. I am fortunate to live in the City of Reno where the Mayor, City Council, and the community care for the river. I look forward to working with you to reverse the currently dire conditions into a thriving environment for everyone to enjoy the Truckee River.

Sincerely,

Iris Jehle-Peppard,
Phone: (775) 450-5489
Email: <iris@onetruckeeriver.org>

Iris Jehle-Peppard
One Truckee River's Partnership Coordinator
2601 Plumas Street
Reno, NV 89509

The Honorable Hillary Schieve
Mayor of the City of Reno
1 East First Street
Reno, NV 89501

October 8, 2019

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As work continues to secure long-term funding, I see value in analyzing the details surrounding the human-centered challenges along the river. With this in mind, I suggest these next steps to address the dire conditions and following I provide additional background for each of my recommendations. With so many complicated challenges along the river, the Phase I OTR Management Plan is a great asset for us today. This plan developed with 20+ local entities over many years was unanimously adopted by the three local jurisdictions in 2016 and today propels implementation with many local partners supported by 130+ stakeholders. My recommendations follow what the OTR Partnership Council prioritized at the end of 2017.

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Enhance safety

- Invest long-term in development east of downtown Reno to support revitalization
- Support One Truckee River Month
- Promote public events at the various parks along the river

Access

- Implement City codes that prioritize public access to the river
- Improve City property along the river to provide controlled access to the water's edge (i.e. stabilized steps and places for people to be at the water's edge)

Public facilities

- Install additional trash facilities that will encourage river users to dispose of waste properly, are resilient to a variety of challenges, and make river cleanups more effective
- Install Sharps containers in all urban parks
- Fund consistent, safe biohazard waste cleanups along the river in the City of Reno

Education

- Promote watershed education
- Support the development of a "Healthy River, Healthy People" campaign

Action Item 2.6.a *Expand the continuum of housing options, including a permanent overflow shelter, transitional housing, and access to permanent, supportive housing, including wrap around services needed to support residents.*

- Continue the process and take action from the OrgCode Consulting, Inc. work
- Start the separate code amendment process or include in the current Zoning Code RENOVation work to implement ongoing affordable housing initiatives mentioned in the "City of Reno Staff Report subject Zoning Code RENOVation Issue Sheet 2A from Arlo Stockham, Community Development Director" (7/31/19) D1.b page 2 Summary Table A: Preliminary Table of Development Standards Amendments
- Support the preservation and expansion of affordable housing options with services when needed such as Northern Nevada HOPES Hope Springs tiny house project and consider the development of a similar shelter to the Dignity Village homeless shelter system in Portland, OR

Background information on my recommendations

Illegal camping: While local law enforcement conducts arrests for illegal camping, there is minimal recourse to deter people from returning to the banks of the river after they are released. This creates a less than 12-hour revolving door dynamic. In April 2019, the US Ninth Circuit Court in *Martin v. City of Boise* upheld a decision that a municipality cannot arrest or punish people for sleeping on public property when no space is available in shelters or other indoor facilities. Surely "kicking them off the river" is not a long-term solution. It is an act that has ethical concerns and legal implications. Nevada is ranked third in the US for the highest number of unsheltered people behind California and Oregon. In 2017, Washoe County reported a 60% increase in homelessness. The Truckee Meadows region with a population of 500,000+ is forecasted to have 120,000 new residents by 2035. The challenges along the river will increase with this population growth.

Action Item 1.3.c *Ensure adequate public restrooms along the Truckee River...*

The River Restroom Project (Project) evolved out of this Action Item from past efforts, including the OTR Housing and Sanitation working group with representatives from the three jurisdictions, Community Foundation of Western Nevada, Downtown Reno Partnership, and local residents. The Project lays out Phases I to IV to establish nine public restrooms along the river in Nevada. Construction is slated to begin in Spring 2020 at Brodhead Park in the City of Reno.

The Project has raised \$620,149 for the pilot and Phase II from the Truckee River Fund, Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), Washoe County Regional Parks Open Space, Washoe County Health District, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, and Renown Health. Once launched, collaboration is planned with Downtown Reno Partnership, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB), Truckee Meadows Tomorrow, and Northern Nevada Recovery Alumni Association (NNRAA). The City of Reno entered into a perpetual agreement with TMWA to place the restroom within Brodhead Park. The effort has gained support letters from local businesses including Courtyard Marriott and Reno Aces. Recently, the NNRAA adopted Brodhead Park through KTMB's Adopt-a-Park program. Project partners plan to launch the pilot in Spring 2020 and must raise an additional \$252,000 for the Project's Phase II. The Project's proposed metrics (data to collect, track, and analyze quarterly) include 1) surrounding area DRP Street Intelligence feces data, 2) water usage, 3) number of related complaints, and 4) number of repairs.

Action Item 2.1.e *Enhance Truckee River visitor safety, access, public facilities and education.*

This Action Item includes the following:

- **Enhance safety** is focused on “neighborhood” safety along the river. A form of safety often secured consistently when there are “eyes on the street” (urbanist Jane Jacobs' term) meaning people serve unconsciously as a witness in lively, well-trafficked public spaces that serve as a deterrent to anyone contemplating a serious crime. We can use this idea to increase safety along the river. The whitewater park in downtown Reno is a great local example of “eyes on the river”. Family orientated activities along the river must be supported and promoted. May's OTR Month is one way that we as a community are accomplishing this along the Truckee River.
- **Access** to the Truckee River allows more people to enjoy the river and in turn, to support enhanced neighborhood safety.
- **Public facilities** are the basic building blocks of a complete public park and invites users from all walks of life to exercise and connect with nature and each other. Improving public park facilities builds community resilience, supports social cohesion, and improves public health. Other crucial public facilities beyond restrooms are trash facilities including Sharps containers.
 - **Biohazard waste** – In 2018, KTMB organized 12+ tons of trash removal from the Truckee River through volunteers' efforts. The City of Reno Parks and Recreation and Public Works also conduct river cleanups. It is my understanding these river cleanup groups are not equipped or trained to address biohazard waste and when biohazard waste is not cleaned up it can delay the non-biohazard cleanups. There is a vital

need to ensure there are consistent biohazard cleanups along the river conducted by a qualified team.

- Additional trash facilities including more Sharps containers - In addition, more trash facilities are needed, including Sharps containers to support disposal of waste along the river. I hear from some that more trash cans will create more trash and individuals using hypodermic needles will not use Sharps containers. Yet, I firmly believe with research and outreach we can find locations and facilities to decrease the amount of trash left along on the river.
- **Education** – KTMB’s watershed education reaches 1,800+ K-12 students in our region annually and additional nonprofits provide this education in the Truckee Meadows. In Spring 2020, through the River Restroom Project, Downtown Reno Partnership will be conducting outreach to the currently homeless population along the river near Brodhead Park and more activities are planned to connect with local residents in the surrounding neighborhood. It is time, as outlined in the Phase I OTR Management Plan, to launch a simple collaborative “Health River, Healthy People” campaign.

Action Item 2.6.a Expand the continuum of housing options, including a permanent overflow shelter, transitional housing, and access to permanent, supportive housing, including wrap around services needed to support residents.

This Action Item addresses the most central challenge round the dire conditions along the river. In 2018, the Department of Housing and Urban Development reported 7,544 people experiencing homeless in the state of Nevada and an estimated count of 1,000 to 1,600 people experiencing homelessness in the City of Reno and the City of Sparks. Homelessness has many negative impacts. Individuals experiencing homelessness are often traumatized from the experience and while homeless it becomes almost impossible without support for one to improve their position in life. There are community-wide negative impacts that go beyond seeing trash along the river. The article “*Paradise Lost: Homeless in Los Angeles*” (6/19/19) describes LA’s Skid Row, now covering 53-square blocks, now ridden with diseases such as tuberculosis, typhoid, and potentially the bubonic plague due to the large number of rats infesting the area.

I celebrate the OrgCode Consulting, Inc. work the jurisdictions (the City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County) are engaged with to address homelessness. I look forward to seeing coordinated actions taken from all three jurisdictions through this process to improve region-wide systems to address homelessness that will have a positive impact on the river.

As you know, the Truckee River provides 85% of the region’s drinking water and is a core natural resource. I am fortunate to live in the City of Reno where the Mayor, City Council, and the community care for the river. I look forward to working with you to reverse the currently dire conditions into a thriving environment for everyone to enjoy the Truckee River.

Sincerely,

Iris Jehle-Peppard,
Phone: (775) 450-5489
Email: <iris@onetruckeeriver.org>



one truckee river

MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

Phase 1 - West McCarran to Sparks Boulevard





Photo: Kelsey Fitzgerald



Photo: Taylor Gipe



Photo: Kelsey Fitzgerald



ONE TRUCKEE RIVER GREENBELT PARK

- Designate the region around the river as a regional park from West McCarran to Sparks Boulevard
- Park would have consistent management, maintenance, regulation and oversight
- Increase amenities along river, including: benches, bike repair stations, bike racks, pet waste stations, restrooms, life jacket stations along river



Rendering: CFA

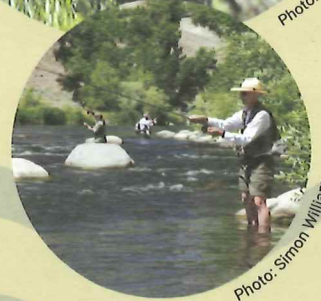


Photo: Simon Williams



Photo: Nevada Rock Art Foundation



Photo: Alex Hoest



ARTS & CULTURE

- Curate art and solicit art creation for public installations along the river
- Include art installations in greenbelt maps, kiosks and interactive mobile app
- Promote art and culture activities that reflect our historical, cultural and natural environment
- Develop a coordinated celebration of the Truckee River from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake



The **emerging issue areas**



Water Quality

85 percent of the community's drinking water comes from the Truckee River. People, animals and plants in our region depend on the river as a vital resource. Current policies leave room for improvement in the way we manage what gets into the river. These problems will be exacerbated as the community grows. It is critical that we, as a community, keep the water in the Truckee River clean and healthy for all those who depend on it.



Social Issues

The Truckee River is the backdrop for serious challenges facing our community – among them, providing support and services to those suffering from homelessness, substance abuse and mental health conditions. While these issues can create barriers to those recreating and using the river, the social issues are not just Truckee River problems – they impact the entire community. We must find ways to help these at-risk populations.



Stewardship

To ensure that the Truckee River continues to be an accessible, inviting destination, it must be managed by faithful stewards. Currently, many groups play a role in protecting and maintaining the river, including federal, state and local jurisdictions, non-profits, businesses and community organizations. Continued collaboration with a common vision is essential for the river's success.

Mission

One Truckee River works to ensure a healthy, thriving, sustainable river connected to the hearts and minds of its community.

Vision

One Truckee River is a collaboration of public and private partners working together to realize a Truckee River that flows clear and clean, quenches our thirst, sustains the river's natural ecology and wildlife, serves as a cultural resource, and connects residents and visitors to unparalleled opportunities for recreation and regeneration.

Funding Sources

Funding came from the following sources for this management plan:

- National Park Service, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
- Conservation Legacy Communications Intern Position
- Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission
- Truckee River Fund at Community Foundation of Western Nevada
- Washoe County State Question One Program
- David Bobzien, Reno City Council
- Naomi Duerr, Reno City Council
- Truckee River Flood Management Authority (in-kind)
- REI
- Renown Health

Core planning team

David Bobzien, Reno City Council
Kim Borgzinner, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Christi Cakiroglu, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful
Kathy Clewett, City of Sparks
Sergeant Wade Clark, Reno Police Department
Wendy Damonte, Renown
Nate Daniel, Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation
Michon Eben, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
Gabrielle Enfield, Washoe County
John Enloe, Truckee Meadows Water Authority
Steve Fine, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful
Lynell Garfield, City of Reno
Peter Gower, Environmental Management and Planning Solutions, Inc.
Birgit Henson, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Mickey Hazelwood, The Nature Conservancy in Nevada
Danielle Henderson, Truckee River Flood Project
Alex Hoeft, Nevada Land Trust/National Park Service
Kitty Jung, Washoe County Commission
Sheila Leslie, Washoe County
Susan Lynn, Truckee River Fund
Jeff Mann, Reno Parks Manager
Kim Mazeres, Truckee Meadows Water Authority
Kelsey Fitzgerald, Truckee River Guide
Paul Miller, Truckee Meadows Water Authority
Bodie Monroe, Trout Unlimited

Scott Nebesky, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
Lynda Nelson, Nevada Land Trust
Lieutenant Amy Newman, Reno Police Department
Donna Marie Noel, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
Randy Pahl, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Darrin Price, Sun Valley General Improvement District
Alicia Reban, Nevada Land Trust
Barbara Rice, National Park Service
Roberta Ross, Ross Apartments
Tim Ruffin, Colliers International
Bob Sack, Washoe County
Jim Smitherman, Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission
Jaime Souza, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful
Cheryl Surface, Washoe County Parks
Tracy Turner, Community Foundation of Western Nevada
Chris Wessel, Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission

Elected officials involved with Truckee River planning

Reno City Council

Hillary Schieve, Mayor
David Bobzien, At-Large
Jenny Brekhus, Ward 1
Naomi Duerr, Ward 2
Oscar Delgado, Ward 3
Paul McKenzie, Ward 4
Neoma Jardon, Ward 5

Sparks City Council

Geno Martini, Mayor
Julia Ratti, Ward 1
Ed Lawson, Ward 2
Ron Smith, Ward 3
Charlene Bybee, Ward 4
Ron Schmitt, Ward 5

Washoe County Commission

Marsha Berkbigler, District 1
Bob Lucey, District 2
Kitty Jung, District 3 and Chair
Vaughn Hartung, District 4
Jeanne Herman, District 5



Photo: Simon Williams



Photo: Taylor Gipe



ONE TRUCKEE RIVER STEWARDS

- Develop a One Truckee River Steward program to engage kids and adults with cleanup efforts, waste/run off education and general river advocacy
- Junior Ranger program targeted at kids with various levels for advancement based on river knowledge and river-friendly activities
- Extend the "Take Care" campaign from Lake Tahoe downriver
- Encourage community members to take the pledge to protect rivers and water quality

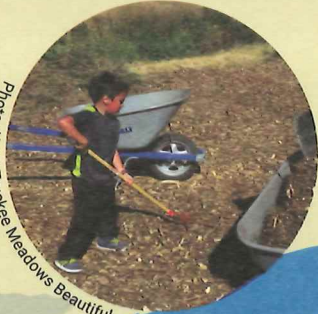


Photo: Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful



Photo: Truckee Meadows Park Foundation

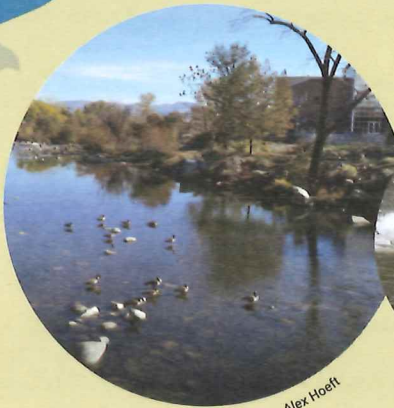


Photo: Alex Hoelt



Photo: Alex Hoelt



Photo: Taylor Gipe



Ecosystem

The health of the Truckee River is an indicator of the health of the surrounding community. Overall health includes both physical, geographic features and living, biological features, and is influenced by water quantity, quality and timing of delivery. The river ecosystem faces challenges from drought, flooding, climate change, development, invasive species and other sources that we must acknowledge and address.



Quality of Life

The Truckee River plays a tremendous role in our cultural heritage, and it continues to enhance the lives of local residents and visitors. However, many people are not aware of the opportunities the river presents, and are not fully taking advantage of what it has to offer. To ensure quality of life for all of us, we must continue to make the community aware of all the ways that the river can enhance our lives.



Public Safety

The Truckee River presents many opportunities that enhance our region's quality of life. However, it also presents threats. Threats can come from flooding, debris, general water hazards and crime that takes place near the river. Public safety concerns require us to identify threats and create solutions to mitigate them. In doing so, we enhance the community's enjoyment of the river.

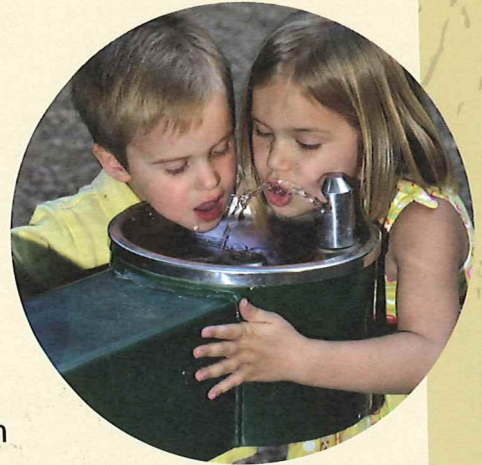


Goal #1

Promote and protect water quality and ecosystem health in the Truckee River

Objectives:

1. Assure that storm drains are delivering the cleanest water into the river
2. Assure effective watershed management on the river and its tributaries
3. Mitigate human impacts that adversely impact water quality on the river
4. Create a rich and diverse vegetative ecosystem
5. Improve wildlife habitat continuity, connectivity and integrity
6. Improve river function and flood water management



Goal #2

Create and sustain a safe, beautiful and accessible river connecting people and places

Objectives:

1. Increase appropriate use and discourage illegal activities along the river
2. Promote consistency in planning, maintenance and management between jurisdictions
3. Increase and enhance safe public access to and along the river
4. Ensure adequate public amenities along the river
5. Improve aesthetics along the river corridor
6. Provide resources and alternatives for people living on the river



Photo: Brianna Weldon

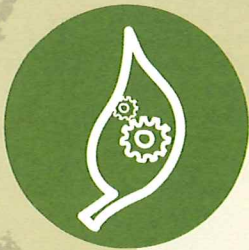


Goal #3

Build an engaged community that protects and cares for the Truckee River

Objectives:

1. Promote awareness and education of the river's natural, cultural and recreational resources and the important role the river plays in our community
2. Increase student education and participation in river activities
3. Enhance opportunities for place-based activities and programs for the entire community
4. Inspire a culture of river stewardship
5. Ensure easy access to river information and appropriate activities



Goal #4

Ensure the sustainable and collaborative management of the Truckee River

Objectives:

1. Create a sustainable organizational model to ensure the successful oversight and implementation of the OTR Management Plan
2. Develop partnerships and raise awareness of the OTR initiative and its achievements
3. Recruit and leverage funding and resources for the OTR initiative
4. Improve understanding of the current state of the river





Rendering: CFA



ONE TRUCKEE RIVER VISITOR CENTER

- Build a One Truckee River Visitor Center along the river, providing information on watershed education, activities and events, water etiquette, maps, trail connections, cultural and historic education, and parking access
- Develop a system of kiosks located at regular intervals along the river with maps, mileage counters and relevant educational, cultural and recreational information about the specific location
- Develop a self-guided watershed River tour using kiosks and an app

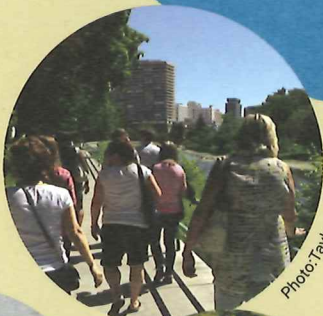


Photo: Taylor Gipe



ONE TRUCKEE RIVER OUTREACH

- Coordinate and support efforts to provide resources and alternatives for people living along the river
- Implement a "Healthy River, Healthy People" campaign that encourages health and wellness in connection with river activity

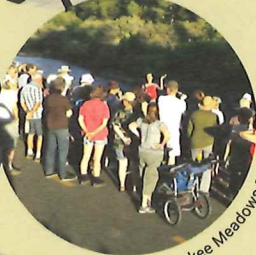


Photo: Truckee Meadows Park Foundation

LAKE TAHOE

one truckee river

In order to succeed, we need a plan.

The One Truckee River Management Plan will help our community accomplish the ambitious objectives laid out here. It is the first overarching management plan for the river which includes quality of life, recreation, water quality, invasive species management, stewardship and protection, environmental education, social service elements, cultural resources and restoration.

We have the ability to make the Truckee River the shining centerpiece of our community. With a shared vision – and all of us working together – we can ensure the Truckee River's health and vitality for generations to come.

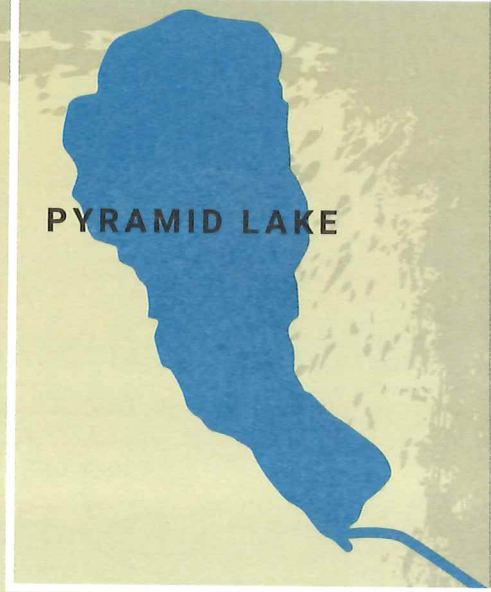


Photo: Paige Cabel



ONE TRUCKEE RIVER APP

- Develop an app that integrates educational, recreational and cultural activities and resources
- Include a game element where people can earn virtual badges for stewardship
- Geo locater would let user know which activities or points of interest are nearest, including restrooms and hydration stations
- Calendar would alert user to upcoming river events



PYRAMID LAKE



Photo: Alex Hoeft



Photo: Lynda Nelson



ONE TRUCKEE RIVER COALITION

- Develop a framework for long-term sustainable management of the river
- Ensure collaborative implementation of the One Truckee River Plan



Funding

Implementation of the One Truckee River Management Plan will require funding. A strategy to support the long-term effectiveness of the One Truckee River Coalition and fund the implementation of priorities and initiatives must be identified to ensure that our goals are met. Opportunities exist to leverage precious public and private dollars through strong coordination and collaboration.



Recreation

The Truckee River offers recreational opportunities vital to the health and well-being of our community, including swimming, fishing, kayaking, biking and walking. However, there are opportunities to improve access, usability and quality of existing facilities and resources, in addition to providing new facilities. Barriers to river access and enjoyment must be identified and then rectified.



Education

For our community to truly become stewards of the Truckee River, we must understand the river's central role in our environment, history, and culture. The river is a wonderful resource that can be used in the teaching of biology, geology, history, and other subjects in K-12 curricula and in programs for adult learners.