

NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Joe Lombardo, *Governor* James A. Settelmeyer, *Director* Jennifer L. Carr, *Administrator* 

**Public Notice** 

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN

Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.6758 to 445A.67612, inclusive, outlines the environmental review procedures to be followed by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). This is considered the State Environmental Review Process that is to be consistent with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The project qualifies for a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the construction of the Advance Purified Water Facility (APWF) at American Flats.

Project Name: Advance Purified Water Facility (APWF) at American Flats

Latitude: 39.63169 Longitude: -119.84953 Population: 440,000

This project is a joint venture between Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) and the City of Reno (Reno).

- TMWA will utilize \$55,000,000 from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The project is listed on the DWSRF Priority List—Effective November 2024 as: Class III: 31.
- Reno will utilize \$70,000,000 from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). The project is listed on the CWSRF Priority List—Effective October 2024 as: Class B: 43.
- The APWF will be operated by TMWA, NV0000190, located in the North Valleys of Washoe County, Nevada.

TMWA provides water to 137,000 residential connections.

NDEP is designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the lead agency for proposed projects funded by the DWSRF and CWSRF programs for the State of Nevada. TMWA and Reno have applied for funding for the construction of the project, which includes, but is not limited to, conveyance pipelines and a pump station, monitoring and injection wells, and improvements to the Reno-Stead Water Reclamation Facility.

This project is providing a conservation effort to reduce reliance on Truckee River surface water, mitigating extreme weather changes in the region, and reducing wastewater effluent environmental discharges to Swan Lake, which is prone to flooding. Advance water purification will treat and recycle water that will be used to recharge underground water aquifers. This project is implemented through the collaboration with other OneWater Nevada regional agencies, City of Sparks, Washoe County, the Western Regional Water Commission, Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission, Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility, and the University of Nevada, Reno. The project intends to produce two million gallons per day of advanced purified water that will produce 2,000 acre-feet of water annually for groundwater augmentation. This will provide a sustainable regional drought-proof water supply and crucially enhance the region's water supply to address future weather impacts. The project includes enhanced water filtration, disinfection, storage, and pumping processes at the Reno-Stead Water Reclamation Facility. This treatment facility uses a granular activated carbon filtration, per- and polyfluoroalkyls substances (PFAS) treatment system, and ultraviolet disinfection. The treated water will be conveyed through a pipeline approximately seven miles to an undeveloped rural site for further disinfection and treatment before being piped to an on-site recharge well. Natural filtration will further enhance the quality of the water before it is introduced to the groundwater aquifer.

NDEP assessed the potential environmental effects of the proposed project and determined that it is unlikely to have a negative effect on the quality of the human environment. No wetlands, floodplains, agricultural lands, or significant fish or wildlife species or habitats are affected by the project. No national landmarks or property with nationally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric, archaeological, or cultural value will be adversely affected by the project. The project is eligible for a FONSI; therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required.

A consultation with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be conducted and Native American entities that may have interest in the general project area and other potential stakeholders will be given an opportunity to provide their comments and feedback. SHPO concurrence for the finding of direct and indirect Areas of Potential Effects and mitigation plans, if any are needed, is required prior to commencing construction on the project. Best management practices will be utilized during construction.

This FONSI notice soliciting public comments received and agency responses will be presented to SHPO as evidence of NDEP's outreach efforts and shall become part of the package to be submitted for SHPO concurrence. This, along with standard unanticipated discovery protocols applicable during the active project construction, form the basis for reasonable assurances that no national landmarks or property with nationally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric, archaeological, or cultural value will be adversely affected by the project. As such, this project is eligible for FONSI determination and an environmental impact statement is not required.

As per NAC 445A.67584, the public comment period is 30 days. Persons wishing to obtain further information regarding the project should submit their comments no later than March 25, 2025. Comments can be submitted to Daniel Morgan, Environmental Scientist, Office of Financial Assistance, State Revolving Fund Program, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. The process of environmental review shall be deemed complete if no comments that the NDEP determines to be significant are received within the time allowed for public comment.

A link to NDEP's public notices can be found at: https://ndep.nv.gov/post

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