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## ***Introduction***

The Western Regional Water Commission (“WRWC”) was created in 2007, effective April 1, 2008 by the Nevada Legislature and by Cooperative Agreement among the WRWC member agencies. Its purpose is to lead a cooperative approach to stewardship of the region’s water resources through developing and implementing an integrated water resources plan, building understanding and trust among stakeholders, and establishing water resources public policy. The WRWC will serve a public use and promote the general welfare by facilitating unified and cooperative efforts to:

- Secure and develop additional water supplies
- Maintain and cooperatively establish policies for managing existing water resources and water supplies
- Provide for integrated regional water resources and management of water supplies
- Provide for integration of efforts to manage storm water
- Provide for protection of watersheds
- Provide for regional conservation efforts, subject to and in accordance with the *Truckee River Operating Agreement (“TROA”)*

## ***Purpose***

Chapter 531, Statutes of Nevada 2007, the Western Regional Water Commission Act (the “Act”), in addition to creating the WRWC, created the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (“NNWPC”). The Act requires the NNWPC to develop a comprehensive plan for the planning area covering municipal and industrial water supply, water quality, sanitary sewerage; sewage treatment, storm water drainage and flood control. The overall purpose is to deal with current and future problems affecting the planning area as a whole with respect to the subjects of the plan. The Act further requires the NNWPC to develop the initial comprehensive plan on or before January 1, 2011, hereinafter “*2011 Regional Water Plan*” or “*Regional Water Plan*”. The Act as amended appears in Appendix A.

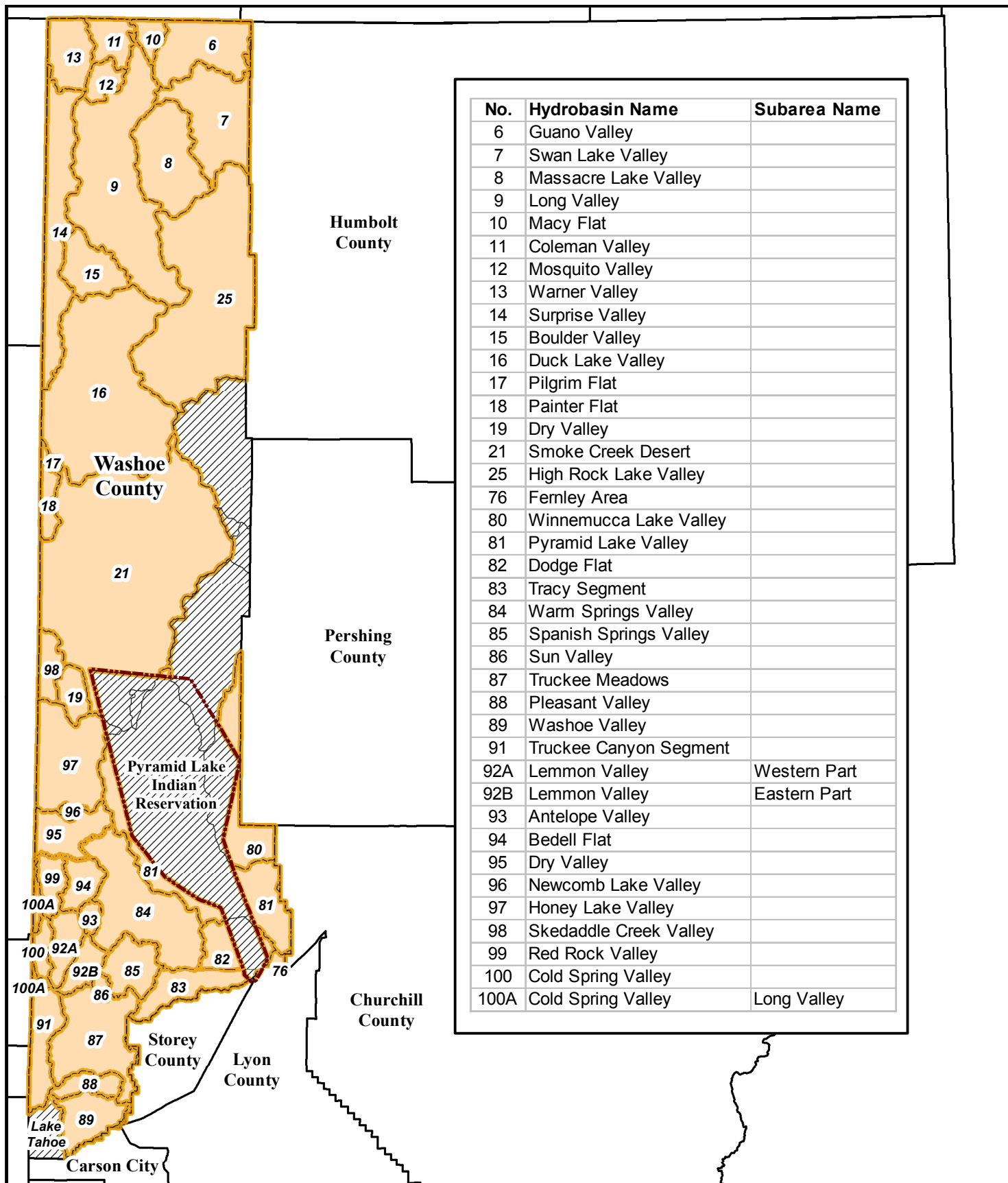
## ***Planning Area***

The Planning Area consists of Washoe County in its entirety except land within the Tahoe basin, any Indian reservation or Indian colony, the Gerlach General Improvement District (“GID”), and State groundwater basins 22-San Emidio Desert, 23-Granite Basin, and 24-Hualapai Flat. Planning is focused, however, on the Truckee Meadows Service Area (“TMSA”), consistent with the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan (“Regional Plan”). The Planning Area is shown on Figure I-1.

## ***Background***

For decades, entities involved with water issues in the Truckee Meadows have recognized a need to develop a plan for water supply, wastewater management, storm water drainage and flood control using a regional approach.

Recent regional water planning efforts started in 1983 when the Nevada Legislature established the Regional Water Planning and Advisory Board (“RWPAB”) of Washoe County.



No.	Hydrobasin Name	Subarea Name
6	Guano Valley	
7	Swan Lake Valley	
8	Massacre Lake Valley	
9	Long Valley	
10	Macy Flat	
11	Coleman Valley	
12	Mosquito Valley	
13	Warner Valley	
14	Surprise Valley	
15	Boulder Valley	
16	Duck Lake Valley	
17	Pilgrim Flat	
18	Painter Flat	
19	Dry Valley	
21	Smoke Creek Desert	
25	High Rock Lake Valley	
76	Femley Area	
80	Winnemucca Lake Valley	
81	Pyramid Lake Valley	
82	Dodge Flat	
83	Tracy Segment	
84	Warm Springs Valley	
85	Spanish Springs Valley	
86	Sun Valley	
87	Truckee Meadows	
88	Pleasant Valley	
89	Washoe Valley	
91	Truckee Canyon Segment	
92A	Lemmon Valley	Western Part
92B	Lemmon Valley	Eastern Part
93	Antelope Valley	
94	Bedell Flat	
95	Dry Valley	
96	Newcomb Lake Valley	
97	Honey Lake Valley	
98	Skedaddle Creek Valley	
99	Red Rock Valley	
100	Cold Spring Valley	
100A	Cold Spring Valley	Long Valley

**Figure I-1 Hydrographic Basins within the Western Regional Water Commission Planning Area**

Notes: The Scale and configuration of all Information shown hereon are approximate only and are not intended as a guide for design or survey work. Reproduction is not permitted without prior written permission from the Washoe County Department of Water Resources.

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The enabling legislation's general mandate to the RWPAB was to develop a regional plan for present and future uses of water resources in the region, recognizing local governments' land use plans and coordinating the needs of incorporated areas with unincorporated areas. The RWPAB was also directed to identify "potential supplies of water" for the region. The Regional Water Resources Plan ("RWRP") was accepted by the RWPAB in March 1990 as a starting point for further planning efforts.

The 1988 Legislation, Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") 278.026–029, amended in 1991, mandated the development of a comprehensive land use plan for the region. The Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Governing Board ("RPGB"), established by this legislation, used an impartial fact finder to establish a coordinated approach to deal with providing wastewater and water services for the region. The fact finder, Kato & Warren Inc., completed its report (Kato & Warren, 1990) in 1990 and recommended that a unified and coordinated approach, directed by one agency, be used to develop a plan to address wastewater treatment; water supply, flood control and storm water drainage; and Truckee River water quality.

From this recommendation, Washoe County funded the Regional Water Supply and Quality Study ("RWSQS"), which was completed in 1993. This extensive report was accepted by the Washoe County Board of Commissioners ("BCC") but not formally adopted.

In 1995, Washoe County, the City of Reno ("Reno") and the City of Sparks ("Sparks") developed legislation to again address regional water issues. This legislation, NRS 540A.010–240, provided the basis and direction for the Regional Water Planning Commission ("RWPC") and the Washoe County Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan.

The RWPC developed, approved and recommended the *1995–2015 Washoe County Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan* to the Board of County Commissioners ("BCC") on November 20, 1996. The BCC adopted the Plan in January 1997 and it was found in conformance with the Regional Plan the following month. Later that month, the *Plan* was approved by the Reno City Council, the Sparks City Council and was accepted by the Nevada Legislature in June 1997. NRS 540A required that the RWPC review the initial Plan within five years of its adoption, and every three years thereafter. The *2004–2025 Washoe County Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan* was prepared as a result of the RWPC's five-year review, adopted in January 2005 and amended in 2006 and 2009.

In June 2007, the Legislature approved Senate Bill 487, a special Act, authorizing the creation of the WRWC and the NNWPC. The Act repealed the sections of NRS 540A dealing with the RWPC, but provided that "the provisions of the comprehensive plan developed and revised pursuant to the former provisions of NRS 540A.130 before April 1, 2008, remain in effect" until the WRWC adopts the initial comprehensive plan required by the Act, i.e., the *Regional Water Plan*.

### ***Plan Development, Adoption and Review Responsibilities***

The NNWPC is responsible for developing the *Regional Water Plan* and recommending future revisions. The NNWPC is also responsible for reviewing the Plan at least every five years and submitting any amendments to the WRWC. Adoption of (or amendments to) the *Plan* is the responsibility of the WRWC. The Regional Planning Commission ("RPC") is responsible for reviewing the *Plan* or amendments for consistency with the Regional Plan, master plans and any other land use plans adopted by local governments within the Planning Area.

In developing the *Regional Water Plan*, the NNWPC must, according to Section 44 of the Act:

1. Receive and consider information from public purveyors, public utilities and other entities supplying municipal and industrial water within the Planning Area;
2. Receive and consider information from entities providing sanitary sewerage, sewage treatment, storm water drainage and flood control within the Planning Area;
3. Receive and consider information from entities concerned with water quality within the Planning Area;
4. Review and consider any plan or recommendation of the State Engineer concerning the development, conservation and use of water resources, existing water conservation plans, the Regional Plan and any master plan that has been adopted pursuant to the provisions of NRS 278 and any similar plan of a local government which applies to any area in the Planning Area, and may seek and consider the advice of each local planning commission and any other affected entity;
5. Coordinate and make consistent the elements of the *Plan* set forth in the Act;
6. Consider existing applicable laws;
7. Recognize and coordinate the needs of the incorporated areas of the Planning Area with the needs of the unincorporated areas of the Planning Area; and
8. Receive and consider information from other interested persons.

The *Regional Water Plan* must also, according to Section 43 of the Act:

1. Be consistent with and carry out the provisions of the Regional Plan adopted by the RPGB pursuant to NRS 278.0276 and the master plans and any other plans for the use of land which are adopted by governmental entities within the Planning Area;
2. Be consistent with and carry out or support the carrying out of all aspects of *TROA* and Water Quality Settlement Agreement (“WQSA”); and
3. Be consistent with the state water plan that is in effect at the time that the Plan is adopted.

Sections 41 and 42 of the Act set forth in detail the required contents of the *Plan* (see Appendix A).

### ***Plan Use, Implementation and Relation to Plans of Implementing Entities***

The *Regional Water Plan* compiles and integrates multiple sources of information in an effort to be inclusive, provide comprehensive, consistent policy-level guidance to regional and local entities and comply with the Act. The *Plan* is not an enforcement-oriented plan and relies on the cooperation and collaboration of the WRWC member agencies, NNWPC members and local and regional government planning agencies for implementation.

Among the most valuable requirements of the *Plan* is the development of goals and policies to deal with current and future problems affecting the Planning Area (WRWC Act, Section 41.2). These policies, comprising Chapter 1, provide a set of consistent guiding principles for Public Purveyors, other service providers and local and regional government planning agencies to consider when developing their plans and reviewing the plans of others.

The NNWPC developed the *Regional Water Plan* in accordance with the Act and in doing so, received, considered and incorporated to the extent feasible and consistent with the objectives of the WRWC, facility plans, water resource plans and Capital Improvement Plans (“CIP”) developed by Public Purveyors and other entities providing services covered by the Plan. The NNWPC also considered the existing *2004-2025 Regional Water Plan* as amended. The provisions of Public Purveyors’ and other service providers’ facility plans and water resource plans, and the policies, rules and actions of their respective governing boards, in part make up the basis for the Chapter 1 Regional Water Planning Policies and Criteria. In addition, state laws, local codes, plans, and other documents, some required by the Act and referenced above, were considered, including but not limited to:

- Federal Acts, such as the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act and Truckee River Negotiated Settlement
- *Truckee River Operating Agreement* and *Water Quality Settlement Agreement*
- Decisions, orders and recommendations of the State Engineer, including existing conservation plans
- *State Water Plan*
- *Washoe County 208 Water Quality Management Plan*
- *TMWA 2030 Water Resource Plan* (see Appendix B)
- Public Purveyor and other service provider facility plans and CIPs
- *Regional Plan*
- Local Government Master Plans
- Washoe County Consensus Population Forecast (“Consensus Forecast”)

As Public Purveyors’ and other service providers’ plans and CIPs are considered and to the extent feasible incorporated into the *2011-2030 Regional Water Plan*, those entities are responsible for its implementation consistent with the Water Planning Policies and Criteria, and other provisions of the Plan.

Because the NNWPC considered the *Regional Plan* and local government master plans during the development of the *Regional Water Plan*, and because of the required review for consistency with the *Regional Plan* and master plans after the *Regional Water Plan* is adopted, consistency is assured among the *Plan* and land use plans in the Planning Area. For example, Section 2.2.1.1 describes a biennial process by which the NNWPC reviews the Consensus Forecast with respect to the sustainable water resources identified in the *Plan* and makes a recommendation to the WRWC concerning a determination and finding to be transmitted to the RPC before the Consensus Forecast is adopted. Once adopted, the *Regional Plan* and local government master plans use the Consensus Forecast as a primary planning factor. In addition, as the Regional Planning Agency conducts reviews for conformance with the *Regional Plan*, certain Regional Water Planning Policies and Criteria are considered. Likewise conformance reviews of facility plans conducted by the NNWPC consider applicable Regional Plan policies. NNWPC conformance reviews are conducted according to Policy 4.1.a (see Chapter 1).

## **Abbreviations**

**(A glossary of water-related terms is provided as Appendix C.)**

ACOE	US Army Corps of Engineers
af	acre foot, acre feet
afa	acre-feet per year
ASR	artificial storage and recovery
AWWA	American Water Works Association
BCC	Washoe County Board of Commissioners
BMP	Best Management Practice
BNR	biological nutrient removal
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
CAB	Citizens Advisory Board
cfs	cubic foot per second
CTMRD	Central Truckee Meadows Remediation District
DRI	Desert Research Institute
EIR	environmental impact report
EIS	environmental impact statement
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GID	General Improvement District
GIS	geographic information system
gpd	gallons per day
gpm	gallons per minute
GWR	Groundwater Rule
HSPF	Hydrologic Simulation Program-Fortran
IVGID	Incline Village General Improvement District
LID	low impact development
M&I	municipal and industrial
MCL	maximum contaminant level
mg/L	milligrams per liter
MGD	million gallons per day
NDEP	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
NEMO	Non-point Education for Municipal Officials
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NNWPC	Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service (US Dept. of Agriculture)
NRS	Nevada Revised Statute
O/M	operations and maintenance
PCE	perchloroethylene or tetrachloroethylene
PL	public law
PLPT	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
POSW	privately owned stored water
ppd	pounds per day
ppm	parts per million
PUC	Public Utilities Commission (Nevada)
RMP	Remediation Management Plan
RPC	Regional Planning Commission
RSWQMP	Regional Storm Water Quality Management Plan



RSWRF	Reno-Stead Water Reclamation Facility
RWPC	Regional Water Planning Commission
RWRP	Regional Water Resource Plan
RWSQS	Regional Water Supply and Quality Study
SNOTEL	Natural Resource Conservation Service's Automated Snowpack Telemetry System
SOI	sphere of influence
STMGID	South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District
STMWRF	South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility
SVGID	Sun Valley General Improvement District
SWAP	Source Water Assessment Program
TCID	Truckee Carson Irrigation District
TDS	total dissolved solids
TMDL	total maximum daily load
TMRPA	Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency
TMSA	Truckee Meadows Service Area
TMWA	Truckee Meadows Water Authority
TMWRF	Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility
TROA	Truckee River Operating Agreement
T-TSA	Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency
UNCE	University of Nevada, Reno Cooperative Extension
UNR	University of Nevada, Reno
USGS	US Geological Survey
WARMF	Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework
WCDHD	Washoe County District Health Department
WCDWR	Washoe County Department of Water Resources
WHPP	wellhead protection plan
WRWC	Western Regional Water Commission
WSCD	Washoe-Storey Conservation District
WTP	water treatment plant
WWTP	wastewater treatment plant

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