



Truckee Meadows Water Management Framework

FACT SHEET

The water management framework within the Truckee Meadows is comprised of a variety of entities, planning documents and implementation functions. Overlap can be found between planning scopes, jurisdiction, and geography. This overlap is both beneficial to the State and the Northern Nevada communities in which we live, work and play. Listed below are the primary water management organizations with a brief explanation of their roles. Water management plans and their life cycles are also described in the following. Guided by federal, state and local laws these plans shape and preserve our natural resources, quality of life, and community.

WATER MANAGEMENT STAKEHOLDERS

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA): A non-profit, community-owned water agency that services the water needs of about three-quarters of the region's population located within the Reno/Sparks higher density core. TMWA also manages upstream drought storage as outlined in the Truckee River Operating Agreement.

Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC): Formed January 2008, pursuant to SB 487, approved by the Nevada State Legislature. WRWC is the forum of discussion for water management ideas between member agencies; Reno, Sparks, Washoe County, TMWA, South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District and Sun Valley General Improvement District. The WRWC also adopts the Regional Water Management Plan (RWMP).

Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC): Formerly the Regional Water Planning Commission; NNWPC is the technical advisory group for the WRWC. NNWPC prepares the RWMP for adoption by the WRWC.

Washoe County Department of Water Resources (WCDWR): The primary water supplier for unincorporated Washoe County located within the Truckee Meadows Service Area. Also responsible for wastewater treatment, reclaimed water, long range water resource planning, flood management and groundwater remediation. Water sources are municipal wells and wholesale water purchase from TMWA. The WCDWR provides support staff to the NNWPC for development and maintenance of the RWMP.

Washoe County District Health Department (WCDHD): Plays a significant role in monitoring and maintaining regional water quality. WCDHD assists public purveyors in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. WCDHD water quality sampling and training is vital to maintaining groundwater quality and supply, via the regulation of on-site sewage disposal systems, and private wells.



Truckee River at McCarran Ranch

Nevada State Engineer: Administers state water law; determines the limits and extent to a claimant's right to water, where and how water may be used, and the quantity of water required for beneficial use; Director of the Division of Water Resources which is part of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Division of Water Resources serves as the lead agency for the development of the State Water Plan.

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP): Has three key roles in the water management framework; safe drinking water management, water pollution control, and water quality planning. Three separate bureaus guide implementation in these areas. Collectively, the primary services provided by NDEP are water quality research and reporting, public education, and permitting.

City of Reno and City of Sparks Departments of Public Works (DPW): Play a role in regional water management through the maintenance of city sewer, storm drain networks, and the provision of reclaimed water. The City of Sparks DPW also operates the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF).

Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA): Plays a central role in ensuring future population growth is consistent with the constrained nature of regional water resources by implementing the goals and policies of the Regional Plan. The RWMP must be consistent with the goals and policies of the Regional Plan.

WATER MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTS

There are several governing documents that address regional water management in the Truckee Meadows. The following documents identify and briefly summarize their contents. Each summary also indicates the document's life cycle.

Regional Water Management Plan (RWMP): the RWMP is the guiding document for water management and planning for the Truckee Meadows. The former RWPC prepared the most recent version of the RWMP in 2004. This plan has a planning horizon of 20 years (2004-2025). The newly formed NNWPC and WRWC are in the process of updating the 2004 plan.

In accordance with Chapter 531, Statutes of Nevada, 2007, the WRWC must approve an updated regional water management plan not later than January 1, 2011. The current 2004 plan addresses water quality and quantity, wastewater management, watershed management, flood control, future water and wastewater demand projections, legal and regulatory constraints, conservation, and financial requirements. The updated plan is required to consider many of the same issues.

Nevada State Water Plan: NRS Chapter 540 mandates the development of a Nevada State Water Plan. The current plan became effective in 1999, and plans for water resources to the year 2020. NRS does not specify how frequently the plan will be updated. The plan contains three primary parts: water resources background and assessment; water use and forecasts; and water planning and management issues. Within these broad areas, the plan includes discussion of future water demand, flood management, conservation, current water issues and recommendations to address the issues, the socioeconomic context, and water education. Ultimately, the plan is a guide for policy and planning.

208 Water Quality Management Plan: From Section 208 of the Clean Water Act, the 208 Water Quality Management Plan addresses surface and groundwater quality, population and wastewater flow projections, reclamation, wastewater treatment, point and non-point source pollution management, and overall water quality planning. The plan was updated most recently in 2007, with a 2030 planning horizon.

Truckee Meadows Regional Plan: Policies 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 of the Regional Plan require the RWMP be consistent with the goals and policies of the Regional Plan specifically with respect to form and pattern objectives. Sections of the RWMP related to water systems, wastewater and stormwater must also be consistent with local master plans that have been found in conformance with the Regional Plan. The current version of the Regional Plan was adopted in 2007, and has a planning horizon to 2030. The next major update is scheduled for 2012.

Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA): the U.S. Department of the Interior and State of California published a final Environmental Impact Statement /Environmental Impact Report in January 2008, which precipitated the completion and signing of the TROA. This agreement is intended to improve operational flexibility and efficiency for those agencies with a stake in Truckee River water. TROA supersedes previous agreements and sets a standard for upstream drought storage, establishes a system of water credits, resolves pending water rights litigation, and standardizes future water use and facility operations. This agreement remains in place until amended.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC CONTACT:



Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency
One East First Street, Suite 1100
Reno, NV 89501
Phone: 775.321.8385
Email: Input@TMRPA.org
Website: www.TMRPA.org