



STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: 5C

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: December 18, 2023

Staff Contact: Lyndsey Boyer, Open Space Manager, lboyer@carson.org

Agenda Title: For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for the submission of an application to the Conserve Nevada grant program for the Buzzy's Ranch Water Rights Acquisition Project. (Lyndsey Boyer, lboyer@carson.org)

Staff Summary: Conserve Nevada is accepting nominations for the 2024 grant cycle. Staff are proposing the submittal of one nomination, the Buzzy's Ranch Water Rights Acquisition Project. Nominations are due to the Conserve Nevada grant on December 28, 2023.

Agenda Action: Formal Action/Motion

Time Requested: 15 minutes

Proposed Motion

I move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the submission of a grant application to Conserve Nevada for the Buzzy's Ranch Water Rights Acquisition Project.

Board's Strategic Goal

Quality of Life

Previous Action

N/A

Background/Issues & Analysis

The Conserve Nevada grant program is accepting nominations for projects authorized by the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (NDCNR) in the following categories:

- Wildfire mitigation and restoration
- Designing/constructing recreational facilities, campsites, or trails
- Acquiring land and/or water for conservation or recreation (including conservation easements)
- Enhancing and restoring the Truckee and Carson River Corridors
- Protecting and restoring wetlands
- Acquisition of credits to protect sagebrush ecosystems

Funding for this round is estimated to be \$2 million for Statewide projects, and \$1 million for the Carson Truckee Watershed. All nominations must be submitted by December 28, 2023. Carson City is eligible under either category. Open Space has one project proposals for discussion, the Buzzy's Ranch Water Rights Acquisition Project.

Buzzy’s Ranch Water Rights Acquisition Project:

In an effort to continue acquiring permanent water rights to support and maintain Buzzy’s Ranch Open Space, staff are proposing submission of a grant application to purchase approximately 45 acres of water, or 200 acre-feet annually (“AFA”), from Vidler Water Company to apply for irrigation purposes at Buzzy’s Ranch. Acquiring water rights for this property would allow for the continued management of the existing wet meadow pasture habitat at Buzzy’s Ranch to maintain historic ranching operations and the aesthetics of the green irrigated fields for the benefit of waterfowl, migratory bird populations and enjoyment by the public.

Staff are proposing an allocation of approximately \$1.8 million dollars in matching funds from the Round 18 SNPLMA grant, Buzzy’s Ranch Water Rights Acquisition and Wetland Enhancement Project funding to strengthen the application. The Conserve Nevada Program Manager confirmed this is an allowable source of matching funds for the grant.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

N/A

Financial Information

Is there a fiscal impact? Yes No

If yes, account name/number: 2545047-507010

Is it currently budgeted? Yes No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact: The grant requires a minimum of 10% match. The Round 18 SNPLMA grant, Buzzy’s Ranch Water Rights and Wetland Enhancement Project will be used as matching funds for this project.

Alternatives

Do not make a recommendation for submission of a grant application and provide alternative direction to staff.

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____

1) _____

Aye/Nay

2) _____

(Vote Recorded By)