BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

THURSDAY 8:30 A.M. DECEMBER 8, 2014

CONCURRENT MEETING

PRESENT:

<u>David Humke, Chairman*</u> <u>Marsha Berkbigler, Commissioner</u> <u>Kitty Jung, Commissioner</u> <u>Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner</u>

Nancy Parent, County Clerk
John Slaughter, County Manager
Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairperson

The Commission convened at 8:32 a.m. in concurrent session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

14-1007 AGENDA ITEM 4 – PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Subject: "Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission, Reno City Council and Sparks City Council as a whole."

Frank Partlow said he donated a copy of the book, "Sage Nevada" to each member of the Nevada Legislature in 2010-11, along with copies to the Washoe County Commission and the Reno and Sparks City Councils. He stated he wrote the book to help readers understand what the Nevada Spending and Government Efficiency Commission was about, how it functioned, and what it accomplished. He said that Legislative Session addressed some of the Sage Commission's recommendations and the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) had the information on what did or did not happen to each of the Sage Commission's recommendations. He stated because there were many newly elected officials, he decided to repeat the donations made earlier. He thanked the elected officials for their service, and congratulated those who were just elected.

Kelly Hyatt congratulated everyone who had new jobs after winning their elections. She said she was speaking on behalf of the Wild Horse Alliance, and she thanked the City of Reno and the County for the proclamations they were doing. She stated she was a travel agent and was very involved in promoting wild-horse tourism. She said she had been researching North Carolina's wild-horse tourism and green-growth development. She felt green-growth development was really important and this area should look at doing that type of development. She said it was about sustainable growth that worked to safeguard and improve public safety, while enhancing the quality of life for people and wildlife. She stated if our natural resources were not preserved and protected, future generations would have nothing but a concrete jungle to live in. She said everyone should continue to work with the wild-horse advocate groups to manage the wild horses with the main goal being public safety. She stated if the public was not safe, the horses would not be safe.

Paula Penrod stated that based on whatever decision the Nevada Supreme Court made regarding Uber, the community needed to be proactive rather than reactive. She stated Uber was looking to expand its services to go beyond ride-sharing by providing one-day delivery service, and that service would rival the services of other such providers. She said there were other startups using similar business platforms to provide ride-sharing services to the public. She stated Uber's financial success was a direct result of the general public's desire to choose what form of transportation they wanted to use. She said in some cities, a person could order a taxicab through Uber using Uber's app. She said the Cities of Reno and Sparks had a golden opportunity to set up a joint agency to license and oversee independent-contractor drivers, whether they drove a taxicab or were Uber drivers. She noted most taxicab drivers were independent contractors and not employees of the taxicab companies. She stated a joint licensing agency would ensure public safety and would provide uniformity in dealing with all independent-contractor drivers. She felt the revenues generated would be significant. She said the community needed to be prepared to deal with the new businesses the hi-tech industry would bring to the area, because it would change our business community, demographics, and community needs. She requested the entities to put the issue of creating a joint-licensing agency on their agendas. She said municipalities had the ability to regulate businesses within their own jurisdictions and there were ordinances already in place regarding independent contractors.

Marilee Wintz stated a bullet flew over her head when she was almost back to her car after hiking on Peavine. She requested Peavine be redefined as a congested area. A copy of her comments and photos was placed on file with the Clerk.

Kent Ervin talked about shooters being too close to the trails on Peavine and noted some of the shooting was occurring in the congested areas. He stated the current boundaries for the congested areas made no sense due to the terrain and the location of the trails and roads. A copy of his comments and photos was placed on file with the Clerk.

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Dr. Pat Collatti said he was representing all of the wild horse groups in Northern Nevada, and he thanked everyone for their hard work and support during the past year. He said he worked with Mayor Cashell to get a proclamation in favor of wild horse ecotourism and safety. He said since then many County and City officials voiced their support and provided help on how to proceed. He stated soon a new cooperative agreement to manage the wild horses would take affect between the horse groups and the State, which would thrust the nonprofits into a situation where they would be the people managing the wild horses and the public safety issues involving them. He said the wild horse advocates would continue to work with local governments to keep the wild horses on the range and safe, while at the same time working to develop an ecotourism system that would greatly benefit the local economies.

Sam Dehne spoke about attending local government meetings and his issues with the elections and the local media.

14-1008 AGENDA ITEM 5 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda Subject: "Approval of the Agenda. (For Possible Action)."

The Reno City Council and the Sparks City Council voted in favor of approving the agenda.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke and Commissioner Weber absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be approved.

14-1009 AGENDA ITEM 6 – PRESENTATION

Agenda Subject: "Presentation – Background and overview regarding jurisdictional preparedness related to the regional impacts of accelerated economic development, specifically with respect to the upcoming Tesla project. [Andrew Clinger, Manager, City of Reno; Steve Driscoll, Manager, City of Sparks; John Slaughter, Manager, Washoe County]"

Andrew Clinger, Reno City Manager, said the managers for the Cities of Reno and Sparks and the County wanted to provide some context in how this agenda was developed. He stated the managers had been receiving inquiries since September from their elected officials and the media regarding the region's preparedness for economic growth. He said in light of those concerns, it was thought it would be helpful for the elected officials and the community to hear directly from staff about some of those areas of concern. He stated today's agenda would cover housing, water resources, and water treatment capacity. He said questions were also received about transportation, K-12 education, workforce, and health care capacity, but those would have to be covered at another time.

Mr. Clinger stated since the middle of 2013, the managers and key staff of the region's public and private agencies had been meeting regularly regarding the Smarter Region project. He said because of that open line of communication, staff could mobilize cooperative efforts like this relatively quickly. He stated the two Cities and the County were also actively implementing the region's new streamlined business license and permitting process, which required a significant level of cooperation.

There was no public comment and no action taken on this item.

14-1010 AGENDA ITEM 7 – PRESENTATION

Agenda Subject: "Presentation and discussion of projected demographic and population changes related to the regional impacts of accelerated economic development, specifically with respect to the upcoming Tesla project, and their implications relating to housing and education. [Kim Robinson, Executive Director, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency]"

Kimberly Robinson, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMPRA) Executive Director, conducted a Power Point presentation focusing on the region's growth, demographics, and housing. A copy of the presentation was placed on file with the Clerk.

9:10 a.m.* Chairman Humke arrived at the meeting.

Ms. Robinson said the region's growth projections were done using consensus forecasting, which combined several forecasts into one. She stated that approach was useful if there was a high degree of uncertainty in the predictions, because pooling forecasts tended to increase accuracy while spreading out the risk associated with using one forecast. She said consensus forecasting also was an agreement by regional partners to share a common vision and to align planning efforts around a shared assumption.

Ms. Robinson stated growth was projected at an additional 127,000 people by 2034, which was a 29 percent increase, along with a projected 81,000 jobs. She said it was important to reassess projections and update them every two years as part of the consensus forecast process. She said assumptions were also being reviewed through a partnership with Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN), which would result in a joint report regarding the potential impacts of enhanced economic development in the region.

Ms. Robinson used a Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) traveldemand model as an example of how the population-projection numbers were used. She stated the model allowed for predicting where traffic constraints would likely occur, so improvements to those areas could be planned. Ms. Robinson said besides looking at the numbers, it was necessary to understand how the demographic changes might impact regional planning, which meant looking at traits such as age, income levels, and household size. She said a 4 percent shift was predicted between the working and retired populations by 2034. She advised the increase in people over 65 meant 41,000 people, while people 80 and over would see a 124 percent increase. She said those increases would impact transit, housing, and senior and social services.

Ms. Robinson said the largest segments of our population were the millennial and baby-boomer segments. She stated the baby boomers preferred single-family housing. She noted the millennials made up over 30 percent of our total population, which meant we had to pay attention to what their housing preferences would be. She said their preferences and the implications of the growing senior population meant there was some uncertainty about what the future housing needs would be, which would be an important conversation to have moving forward. She said that was why doing a residential lands study was being contemplated, because that study would look at current supply and future demand. She said one of the biggest pieces to understanding housing was to understand what was already approved, so the focus was on the supply of approved future-housing units across the region, which totaled 64,000 units. She stated as of November about 9,000 units had an active tentative map, 54,377 units were planned, and 4,500 units were subdivided. She said 9 percent of the units were in Washoe County, 28 percent were in the City of Sparks, and 63 percent were in the City of Reno.

Ms. Robinson discussed the tentative map and planned development slide, which showed most of the approved units were on the periphery of the community. She said the jurisdictions had not previously had access to the region-wide spatial assessment of approved future units, which was a new data product that would be provided to the jurisdictions via an online viewer and would be updated in partnership with the local governments.

Ms. Robinson said one of the best sources of information on the potential impacts of Tesla on the region was a report by the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), which predicted 6,500 direct jobs, 7,814 indirect jobs, and 8,402 induced jobs by 2018. She stated the short-term construction impact for 2015 through 2018 would be roughly 3,000 direct and 1,500 indirect jobs.

Ms. Robinson reviewed two possible population growth scenarios for Washoe County based on information in the GOED report, which resulted in either 4,454 or 6,241 new residents. She stated more new residents than that were being planned for, and the direct jobs being generated by Tesla were not the whole story. She said that was why the TMPRA was partnering with EDAWN to explore the impacts of induced and indirect jobs that would result from this development. She stated they were also partnering with other agencies to explore new data and develop additional products that would help with understanding the area's potential future.

Commissioner Hartung felt it was time to look at extending the regional perspective to include Storey and Lyon Counties and to potentially go as far south as Carson and Douglas Counties. He stated what we did affected them and what they did affected us and we all needed to know what everyone was doing. He felt there should be a specific organization, which perhaps needed to be created legislatively. Ms. Robinson said the industrial-lands report did look towards Fernley and Carson City. She said they were attempting to take a wider view of the region, and she agreed it involved more than just what happened here.

Commissioner Jung asked if the future housing units slide showed what was approved, but not yet built. Ms. Robinson said that was exactly what it showed. She felt that should be looked at when considering any future residential requests. Commissioner Jung asked if Ms. Robinson worked with the University of Nevada to get this information. Ms. Robinson replied they worked with the three jurisdictions to get the information, and then spent quite a bit of time looking at the zoning to figure this out.

Reno City Councilperson Jenny Brekhus asked if the 2.56 individuals per household being used would change over the next 20 years. She stated the 2010 Census individual household formation showed the strongest growth, but would that number go down. Ms. Robinson said she anticipated over time that number would be reduced and updated numbers would be used.

Commissioner Berkbigler recalled reading millennials were not interested in independent housing, but were more interested in condominiums or high-rise housing located closer to town; and she asked if they were being considered in this study. Ms. Robinson said she heard the same thing. She said part of what would be seen over time was whether that would be accurate as a generational piece or did it have more to do with the time of life they were in. She stated that really spoke to doing the residential land study that would be discussed at the Regional Planning Governing Board (RPGB) meeting on Thursday. She said it was believed that was a trend that was coming our way, and help was needed in understanding exactly what the impacts would be.

Sparks City Councilperson Julia Ratti asked if a unit was a single-family home. Ms. Robinson replied a unit represented all types of homes.

In response to the call for public comment, Sam Dehne said Ms. Robinson's presentation was excellent. He spoke about Tesla and the coming explosion of people and jobs, which the area had to plan for in advance. He felt there should be this type of meeting held to discuss Uber.

Reno City Councilperson Ed Lawson noted all three entities joined the Western Nevada Development District (WNDD), which was made up of nine counties. He said attendance had been lacking at the meetings, and he encouraged the City of Reno and the County to have someone at the meetings, which would help develop relationships with the other counties. He said the WNDD also gave us access to federal dollars that we would not have access to otherwise.

The Sparks and Reno City Councils voted to accept the report.

Commissioner Jung said another area that had to be looked at regionally regarding traffic and roads was the new Amazon Fulfillment Center located in north Reno. She felt that might be another huge hit for the RTC, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), and others. She noted it would also impact the City of Sparks due to housing needs.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Weber absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be accepted.

14-1011 <u>AGENDA ITEM 8 – PRESENTATION</u>

Agenda Subject: "Presentation and discussion of water resource capacity and projected demands for service related to the regional impacts of accelerated economic development, specifically with respect to the upcoming Tesla project. [John Erwin, Director of Natural Resources, Planning and Management, Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Jim Smitherman, Water Resources Program Manager, Western Regional Water Commission]"

Jim Smitherman, Water Resources Program Manager, Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC), conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which highlighted the WRWCs background, organizational structure, and responsibilities. A copy of the presentation was placed on file with the Clerk.

Mr. Smitherman said after the first of the year, the South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District (STMGID) and the County's water utility would consolidate with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA). He stated the planning area encompassed all of Washoe County except for the Tahoe basin, tribal lands, and a couple of groundwater basins that were near Gerlach. He said the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission was responsible for developing a comprehensive regional water plan that covered wastewater, water supply, water quality, storm-water drainage, and flood control for the entire planning area. He stated the law specifically directed the focus to be on Reno, Sparks, and the surrounding Washoe County area. He said the Water Planning Commission finished its plan in January 2011, and it was adopted by the WRWC and presented to the Legislature. He stated the Act required the Regional Water Plan to be found in conformance with the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan and that it had to be reviewed and updated every five years. He said the review and update would be due in 2016.

Mr. Smitherman reviewed the slides dealing with water resources and land use planning, which included the 2010 estimated sustainable water resources for the Truckee River System and groundwater basins, 2010 water use projection, 2014 population projection, and the estimated sustainable water resources for the Truckee

River System and groundwater basins including Fish Springs Water Importation project. He said it was concluded there were 143,800 acre-feet per year of currently developed and potentially available sustainable water resources without importation. He stated the water use projection for a population of 590,500 was 142,000 acre-feet per year. He said the current Consensus Forecast projected the population would be 551,655 in 2034. He stated the comparison showed there was more than enough water resources potentially available in the area to serve the predicted 2034 population.

Commissioner Berkbigler said a study by the Desert Research Institute (DRI) indicated there was not enough water available in this valley and we should start working towards ensuring more water would be available. She asked if Mr. Smitherman had the opportunity to compare those findings to the findings done through TMWA. Mr. Smitherman said he had not, but he would like to know what report she was referring to. Commissioner Berkbigler asked the County Manager to provide that report to Mr. Smitherman. She said the report was presented to the Commission for approval, but they did not take action on it because of the difference between that report and what they were being told while going through the merger process.

Commissioner Hartung asked if the numbers took into account the conservation efforts. Mr. Smitherman said the numbers were projected based on the water-use patterns seen in 2010.

Sparks City Councilperson Charlene Bybee asked if the projected numbers were available if there were 40,000 fewer people. Mr. Smitherman replied they did not have those numbers. He said since the update to the Regional Water Plan was being done, a projection for that would be done this year and those numbers would be available by the end of the calendar year.

Reno City Councilperson Naomi Duerr asked what the status of the Fish Springs project was. Mr. Smitherman replied the infrastructure was complete and there was water in the pipe. He said it could quickly be put into service.

Commissioner Berkbigler asked why the population number calculations were showing a decrease when there would be so much growth occurring due to Tesla and other things. Mr. Smitherman stated he was using the Consensus Forecast population numbers. He believed the numbers were decreasing because there had been a fairly steep rate of growth back in 2008 and those projections were at that steeper rate. He said since then the growth rate dropped off and the numbers were adjusted downward. Commissioner Berkbigler said she was concerned the numbers were outdated due to all of the businesses looking to come to Reno, and those trends needed to be looked at.

Reno City Councilperson Jenny Brekhus asked if the water being imported from California was what was already approved to come to this basin or could it be picked up by some other region. Mr. Smitherman said the permitting process would have to be undone for that to happen, and the well field for the project was in the portion of the Honey Lake Valley that was in Nevada. He advised the permits allowed up to 8,000 acre-

feet per year to be pumped and delivered to the North Valleys. He said the amount pumped could be expanded if monitoring showed pumping the 8,000 acre-feet did not cause adverse effects. He stated the infrastructure was not there to deliver the water someplace else, such as to Storey County or somewhere in California.

Sparks City Councilperson Ron Smith felt people should be encouraged to do xeriscaping. He said the same amount of water was dedicated to a house with zero landscaping as was dedicated to a house with lawns, but that needed to be changed. He said Las Vegas and Phoenix were buying people's lawns to save water, and he felt things would get worse. Mr. Smitherman said using water as wisely as possible was always good policy.

Councilperson Duerr recalled a number of wells were going dry in the North Valleys, and could any of this water go to supply the homeowners on wells. Mr. Smitherman said the water that would be available from the Vidler project had to be bought at a per acre foot rate. He stated he did not know if the funds were available to buy that water to offset the domestic well owner's water supply if their well was going dry. He stated the County developed a couple of mitigation programs. Councilperson Duerr said she remembered one of the mitigation programs came from a bill that would provide loans and grants to homeowners who were losing their water supply. She asked if those loans would go towards helping them gain access to this water or some other water. Mr. Smitherman said he knew the loans could go towards putting in the infrastructure to deliver the water to their home. He noted one subdivision in Lemmon Valley was at least partially plumbed for water service. Councilperson Duerr felt it would be a good idea to get some sense regarding how many homes on wells could potentially need some of this water, which would give us a better handle on what water was available for new growth versus supplying existing housing. Mr. Smitherman said because of the due diligence during the work on the consolidation, TMWA had looked hard at the domestic well owners who were in the couple of areas suffering well failures and what that would mean to supply and demand.

Councilperson Jardon said she did not see in the upcoming TMWA presentation if the initiation of water conservation would be touched upon. Mr. Smitherman said his presentation was about the 20-year outlook for water resources.

Sparks City Councilperson Julia Ratti said there was a lot of discussion about what the human needs were, but what about the wild horses, fish, and the agriculture downstream. Mr. Smitherman said the Legislature focused on the municipal and industrial use of water when they put forward the law. He stated he only looked at agriculture to see if there were agricultural water rights that could be converted for municipal and industrial use. He said there were some places where the State Engineer set aside permanent water to be used by wildlife, and there were no plans to convert any of that water to municipal and industrial use.

Councilperson Smith said he heard only about 13 percent of the water in the Truckee River was used. Mr. Smitherman stated it varied based on whether it was a

wet or dry year, but he thought that figure was about right. Councilperson Smith asked if that was by law or based on needs. Mr. Smitherman replied it was partly rooted in the law, but we could divert as much as we had permission to divert.

John Erwin, TMWA Director of Natural Resources Planning & Management, reviewed his Creating a Municipal Water Supply PowerPoint presentation, which focused on how prepared TMWA was to meet the demands for municipal and industrial water in the Truckee Meadows proper. The presentation highlighted the Truckee and Carson Rivers Systems map, river flow variability, managing the raw riverwater supply variability, users of the Truckee River, and the Truckee River Water Rights. A copy of the presentation was placed on file with the Clerk.

Mr. Erwin said Lake Tahoe was the largest storage basin on the Truckee River and stored 722,000 acre-feet of water. He stated the other storage basins were Donner Lake, Prosser, Boca, Independence, and Stampede, and were used to store drought reserves. He said this year was the first time in 20 years water had to be released out of Donner Lake and the other storage sources. He discussed having to release water to maintain the river flow. He stated 75,000 acre-feet per year were produced every year and approximately 90 percent of the region's water supply came from the Truckee River with the balance coming from groundwater.

Mr. Erwin said the snowpack was the big driver of the Truckee River's flow. He stated TMWA planned for the variability in the snowpack and for an average rainfall of 7.5 inches per year. He stated the Truckee River flow in 2012 through 2014 were not as bad as TMWA planned for. He said there was no idea what next year would bring and if it would mean changing TMWA's planning criteria. He discussed Lake Tahoe's elevation and the release-fill-release cycle. He stated the drought cycle TMWA planned for took the historic eight-year cycle and added a few more years to it, which was a very conservative position. He said in 1992 during a very severe drought, the community indicated they did not want major interruptions in community services or water supply. He stated Independence Lake's water was held strictly for times when the water was very low and water had to be released out of Independence Lake.

Mr. Erwin said the usage pattern was fairly steady, but was growing slightly. He stated in the fall the trees shut down and most people turned off their irrigation systems, which meant less water had to be diverted. He said currently 35 to 40 million gallons a day were being produced and during the summer it was 120 to 130 million gallons a day. He advised the plant was built to meet the summer demand. He said there was always a water supply in the Truckee River, even though there might not be water released from Lake Tahoe or Boca through the year to make the supply. He stated knowing that meant estimates had to be made on where the water supply would come from. He said they planned for an eight year drought cycle, but there was not an eight year water supply. He stated it was the cycle of the demand picking up in the summer and going down in the winter and with the winter bringing the water supply, which carried us through the summer season. He said groundwater and surface water was held in reserve for a year like this. He stated in the fall a certain volume of water had to

be released out of the reservoirs, which would give them sufficient storage space to capture a storm event.

Mr. Erwin stated the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) was the product of the negotiated river settlement, which was incorporated into PL101618. He said that was the federal statute that made a deal between Sierra Pacific, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and the United States that increased the ability to store water. He discussed the pre-TROA and post-TROA reserves, slides 14 and 15. He said instead of the flow being a fixed flow in the spring, water would be held in the reservoir, which would allow accumulating the larger volume. He stated the federal government owned the reservoirs, TMWA owned the water rights, and the excess water would be turned over for fish purposes in the wet years. He said in essence that was the negotiated river settlement. He stated it was anticipated TROA would go into effect April 1, 2015.

Mr. Erwin discussed the typical diversions of the Truckee River water in non-dry and dry years, slide 18, and water production versus population. He noted the water utility was separated from the power company in 2001-02, which meant people could see how much water they were using because that information was not buried in their power bill. He said also coming into play was the weather, the understanding water was a scarce resource, and the heightened sense we needed to work as a community to manage our resources more efficiently and in a more cohesive fashion. He said in addition, the water utility had a revenue requirement of \$75 million, but its rates only generated \$60 million. He stated TMWA had to raise its rates in 2003-2004, which could clearly be seen due to the separate water bill and made people further rethink how they used water.

Mr. Erwin said after the economic downturn, the area was almost back to its 2005 population level. He stated for planning purposes, all that did was shift the curve without necessarily changing the projections. He stated the projected long-term water demands, slide 20, flattened as the resources became more constrained. He said regarding any system loss, TMWA had gone through a major rehabilitation of the system. He stated the system losses ranged from four to five percent, which were caused by major leaks on TMWA's side of the meter and by leaks on the customer's side of the meter. He said major leaks did not lose millions of gallons of water and 200,000 – 500,000 gallons per year were used for fire suppression. He stated the water meters were rated for plus or minus three percent, so there was not a 100 percent read on all of the meters. He said all of that was captured by loss.

Mr. Erwin said slide 22 showed the Truckee River broken into three dominant reaches: Farad to Vista, Vista to Derby Dam, and Derby Dam to Pyramid Lake. He stated each reach had a collection of water rights that could not be added to and were based on the historic use of the various irrigators at that time. He said there was about 225,000 acre-feet of water available in the Truckee River system, which would be a future constraint. He stated the 100 to 300 acre foot blocks of water rights were few. He said the .01, .1, 2.8 acre-feet were out there, but they were broken up. He said the Washoe County Conservation District kept track of all the water rights, because they billed

everyone who owned one. He stated there were about 30,000 spread-out parcels that had a claim to 40,000 pieces of water rights. He said finding willing sellers and aggregating those pieces would be difficult to do. He discussed the reason for the surge in water rights prices in 2005, which lasted until 2007. He said right now the market ranged from \$2,500 to \$6,000 per acre foot.

Mr. Erwin said to use the Truckee River to make a water supply, a water right and a drought supply were needed, and TROA took care of the drought supply. He said currently TMWA produced 75,000 acre-feet of water a year and could go up to 119,000 acre-feet a year, which would be reached in 2043 to 2050. He stated it looked like sufficient water rights were available between the main stem and the creek, but the question was who would be willing to sell and at what price.

Mr. Erwin said slide 24 showed TMWA's retail service boundaries. He stated the dashed areas showed the current County systems that would be merged into TMWA. He said because TMWA was virtually the only diverter on the Truckee River system in the winter, TMWA did a recharge program where treated water was injected into many of the production wells, and he discussed the various projects. He stated TMWA sought to preserve its permits by cooperating with the State Engineer's Office in taking the steps, such as recharge programs, so if the water needed to be extracted it would be available.

Mr. Erwin said any water saved in the Truckee Meadows was saved. He stated Las Vegas spent close to \$35 million for its "cash for grass" program. He said they convinced people to take out their grass, but then sold that water to the next person to hook up, which meant there was essentially no savings. He said last summer TMWA called for a 10 percent voluntary reduction in water usage because they wanted to keep as much water as possible in storage. He said more aggressive conversation as it related to landscapes and medians would be needed going forward, he agreed they had a hard time managing irrigation due to there being so much overspray. He said TMWA's Board directed staff to determine if there was a smarter way to handle landscape requirements for commercial and residential properties.

Chairman Humke said slide 20 indicated the system loss was projected to increase through 2050, and he asked if mitigation was planned. Mr. Erwin said many pipes were 50 to 60 years old and the pipes closest to the downtown core were even older. He said TMWA was constantly fixing leaks in the pipes, most of which could not be seen. Chairman Humke asked if there was a plan to replace the distribution system. Mr. Erwin said there was. He stated TMWA was constantly out to the same streets, and they tried to time the repairs in coordination with the street and sewer replacements, so TMWA did not dig up a street that was just replaced. Chairman Humke asked if this represented a factor that was an industry standard for a municipal water company. Mr. Erwin said TMWA was at the lower end of standard at four or five percent. He stated TMWA did not like that placement and was trying to fix it by doing the repairs as quickly as they could, but part of the nature of the business was the system leaked. Chairman

Humke asked how TMWA would expand its service area. Mr. Erwin said the service area would expand in response to development.

There was no public comment on this item.

The Reno and Sparks City Councils voted to accept the report.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Weber absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be accepted.

14-1012 <u>AGENDA ITEM 9 – PRESENTATION</u>

Agenda Subject: "Presentation and discussion of wastewater capacity and projected demands for service related to the regional impacts of accelerated economic development, specifically with respect to the upcoming Tesla project. [John Flansberg, Director of Public Works, City of Reno; Neil Krutz, Deputy City Manager for Community Services, City of Sparks; Dave Solaro, Division Director for Community Services, Washoe County]"

Neil Krutz, City of Sparks Deputy City Manager for Community Services, said the Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan would be revised in 2015 and presented for adoption in early 2016. He stated there were five wastewater treatment facilities, which had a treatment capacity in excess of 48 million gallons. He said most of the flow that went into the plants did so by using gravity, but there were some places where pumping was required to get the flow to a place where gravity took over. He said the County and the Cities of Sparks and Reno worked cooperatively to treat wastewater and had a joint coordinating committee at the Truckee Meadows Water Authority Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF) that consisted of staff, elected officials from Reno and Sparks, and staff from Washoe County and the Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID). He said there would be a joint study to see how effluent would be used going forward.

John Flansberg, City of Reno Public Works Director, said the two models used were put together by the Regional Planning Agency and showed where we stood with our plants and their capacity. He stated one model was for TMWRF and the other was applied to the rest of the planning area. He said the Population and Employment Model (PEM) used the 2012 Consensus Forecast, which went down to a more detailed level that was parcel-based and projected lower growth with more growth in the outlying areas. He said the 2014 Consensus Forecast (CF) used our most recent assumptions for growth and anticipated more growth in the urban core.

Mr. Flansberg discussed the current treatment plant capacity slide and when the various plants would be upgraded.

Mr. Krutz stated in 2013, TMWRF put too much nitrogen in the Truckee River, which violated their permit with the State. He said things were looking good for 2014 and the chances of violating the permit were low. He stated that happened due to a number of process improvements implemented at the plant and resulted in tighter process controls. He said TMWRF conducted 21 separate wastewater treatment processes, and managing and operating the plant took a lot of work. He said staff was to be commended for the improvements they made and the results they were delivering.

Mr. Krutz stated they would continue to look for the opportunity to do process improvements in the short term, but they were also looking for ways to sign up additional effluent customers. He said historically the effluent use was out of TMWRF watered grasses and crops in the summer, while in the winter everything TMWRF treated ended up in the Truckee River. He said there had been some conversations with Storey County and the Governor' Office of Economic Development about making effluent available out at the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center (TRIC), which would benefit the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) by having a year-round user of effluent. He stated TMWA's biological systems operated more efficiently in the warmer summer months in removing nitrogen. He said if a winter-time user of that water or a storage alternative could be found, the water could then be released as part of the summer-time flows when the Truckee River was lower, which would benefit the Truckee River and the community.

Mr. Krutz said TMWA was also looking at making joint use of certain facilities. He stated the County and City of Sparks jointly constructed the North Spanish Springs Flood Control Facility, which was owned and maintained by the County. He said engineers were investigating whether it could use the retention basin to allow effluent to filter into the ground. He stated if the geology was such that it could take a significant amount of water, it would not cost a lot of money to extend a pipe over to the detention basin. He said the next long-term upgrade was based on the 2030 timeframe and would be a capital investment in the range of \$30-\$40 million. He explained those numbers were out of a study paid for by the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC), which looked at treatment alternatives for TMWRF. He said it would create a significant increase in annual operating expenses. He stated the 2030 timeframe might be a little too far out and TMWA was looking at how something like that could be funded sooner.

Commissioner Hartung said regarding putting water in the detention basin out in Spanish Springs for filtration, and he noted there had been nitrate problems in that basin for quite some time. He asked if the nitrogen would not be filtered out of the water, thereby exacerbating the problem in Spanish Springs. Mr. Krutz believed the potential was very small it could. He explained the nitrogen concentrations in the effluent coming from TMWRF were orders of magnitude lower than what was coming out of the facilities that created the problem.

Reno City Councilperson Jenny Brekhus asked why we were not looking at deep-water injections to refill the groundwater tables. She noted the previous presentations indicated we were moving more towards developing the groundwater resources. She said she was aware there had been an injection pilot project in Stead and was there any thought long term on refilling the groundwater tables. Mr. Krutz stated it was certainly something to consider in the long term, but groundwater injection was a lot more expensive to construct and operate than a rapid-infiltration basin or some other consumptive use that would keep the water from getting back into the Truckee River. He said all alternatives would be considered, but the more expensive alternatives tended to fall off of the range of possibilities fairly soon. Councilperson Brekhus asked where the nitrogen was coming from, and if there were any ties between the storm drains and the sewer system in the City of Reno. Mr. Krutz replied humans were the biggest contributors to the nitrogen problem, because every one of us was a nitrogen factory. Mr. Flansberg advised there were no sewer pipes connected to the storm drains in the City of Reno, but there was a limited issue of some storm drains going to the sewers.

Reno City Councilperson Neoma Jardon asked what was being done in the short term regarding the capacity issues relative to meeting the expected population growth due to Tesla coming to the region. Mr. Krutz said the process improvements were part of the short-term solutions, along with the rapid-infiltration basin and sharing facilities. He stated they were also looking at disposing of effluent in wetland areas where the flow would either be consumed or infiltrated. He stated getting into the medium-term solutions, Washoe County owned a retention basin behind Huffaker Hills and TMWA was studying tying the effluent system to that basin to store the effluent, because the County was not using it fully in the short to medium term. He said those were the short to medium term solutions that would position us to handle the growth from Tesla and in general. Councilperson Jardon stated Storey County had expressed an interest in our effluent water. Mr. Krutz replied they had. Councilperson Jardon asked what infrastructure would be needed to get that to them now and what would be the cost. Mr. Krutz said they did not know the cost. He stated Storey County and TRIC were doing some preliminary engineering on constructing a pipeline from TMWRF to TRIC. He felt a 16-inch pipe would be sized to deliver the effluent and would probably cost \$1 million per mile for probably 20 miles of pipe, but it had not been determined who would pay for it. He stated TMWA was pleased there was a user who was looking at that opportunity and what the costs would be because it would save the cost of treating the effluent.

Mr. Krutz said the Governor's Office of Economic Development was taking a very active role in the use of effluent as an economic development draw for industrial use. He stated at the Regional Planning Governing Board (RPGB) meeting, the Board would be considering a Regional Plan Amendment that would allow TMWA to participate in the construction of effluent reuse facilities that would take effluent outside of the Truckee Meadows Service Area (TMSA), which was not currently allowed.

Sparks City Councilperson Charlene Bybee asked what would be the timeline if the pipeline was built. Mr. Krutz stated TRIC was looking for the ability to have effluent flowing onsite by mid-2016.

Reno City Councilperson Naomi Duerr said there was an expectation of returning water to the Truckee River and, if a pipeline went to TRIC, would TRIC be

responsible for having to put water back into the Truckee River. Mr. Krutz said they had thought about that and the short answer was no. He said they were allowed to divert and not return up to 6,700 acre-feet of water from the Truckee River. He stated the point of sending effluent to TRIC was for the water to be consumed because, if it ultimately was returned to the Truckee River, the nitrogen still had to be counted. He said sending the effluent to TRIC would not have done us a whole lot of good.

Councilperson Duerr said it was mentioned how much capacity was available, but she heard a bunch of numbers regarding capacity. Mr. Krutz said there was more than enough capacity to treat what was currently being generated and enough to treat the growth coming in the next decade. He said each facility had a capital plan and an operating plan and it was up to TMWA to deliver on those plans so the capacity would be available when needed. Councilperson Duerr said there would be enough capacity for the next 10 years to handle the growth expected during that time. Mr. Krutz said he would be hard pressed to say when we would run out of capacity, but making those key investments would get us there. Councilperson Duerr asked if there were plans to expand TMWRF or was it built out. Mr. Krutz replied it was not built out.

Commissioner Hartung asked if we sold water to TRIC and it ended up in the Truckee River, would that be our responsibility in terms of the nitrogen loading. Mr. Krutz stated in terms of TMWA's permit, the State would look at the original permit holder. He said his understanding of the industrial process being considered to use the effluent water was they would treat the water and consume it. He stated TMWA was not planning for that water to flow back into the Truckee River, but TMWA would still be on the hook if it did. Commissioner Hartung said he hoped the potential liability would be a part of the discussion.

Reno City Councilperson Ed Lawson said the \$20 million pipeline would be the perfect project for the Western Nevada Development District (WNDD) to help us get funding. He believed there should be more engagement by all of the entities with the WNDD in the future, because they were a great source of money. Mr. Krutz advised the cost of the pipeline would be closer to \$30 to \$35 million than the \$20 million he mentioned earlier.

Dwayne Smith, Washoe County Engineering and Capital Projects Director, said there were four other treatment facilities in the region besides TMWRF, and they were all important for growth. He stated the County was responsible for three facilities, which included the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (STMWRF). He reviewed STMWRF's current projects. He stated treating solids at STMWRF would reduce the amount of nutrients in the solids going to TMWRF. He said the headworks and controls projects were important because, not only was there a responsibility to be ready to respond to new growth, but there was also a responsibility to new customers to ensure the things done were as cost effective as possible.

Mr. Smith said planning for the Facility Plan Update started about five years ago when growth was rampant and prior to the downturn in the economy. He stated

the Cities of Reno and Sparks and Washoe County were working together to address how effluent could be capitalized upon. He stated the Bio-solids project would be before the Board tomorrow for approval and was planned to be operational in 2016. He said the STMWFR Six Million Gallons of Water Per Day (MGD) Expansion would cost approximately \$30-\$35 million.

Mr. Flansberg said regarding the Reno/Stead Water Reclamation Facility (RSWRF), many of the distribution facilities were being built in places that had been planned for housing. He stated the water uses for those facilities would be much lower than those of individual homes, and might help with development planning and timing. He stated because of the jobs they would bring, they might also spur where future housing would be placed. He discussed the upgrades needed at RSWRF, which would be done in two phases. He said the second phase would be the more significant phase and would take the capacity from 2.5 to 4.8 MGD. He stated a large component of the upgrade would be to decide on what would be done with the effluent. He said there was a large facility planning effort in the North Valleys, which was looking at the overall sewer shed, lift stations, delivery, the collection system to take it to the plant, and what needed to be done at the plant. He expected that would generate a 20-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He noted the Lemmon Valley Wastewater Treatment Facility (LMWWTF) and RSWRF were so close together that they were looking at what would be the lowest cost for the customer as opposed to some sort of arbitrary jurisdictional boundary.

Mr. Smith said the focus was on maximizing the existing capacity at the LMWWTF. He stated there were many areas in our service territories where jurisdictional boundaries were overlapped by sewer sheds, which Lemmon Valley was a perfect example of. He said to meet the best use needs and to make sure the best possible decisions for the future were made, a joint Facility Plan was initiated. He stated as the facilities were looked at, it was important that ways were found to ensure there was an equitable approach to the treatment and disposal of wastewater. He said not doing that could be setting up situations where there could be challenges.

Mr. Smith stated the Cold Springs Water Reclamation Facility (CSWRF) was last expanded in 2003 and treated around 300,000 gallons a day, but it was permitted for 700,000 gallons a day. He said in 2003, some design elements were incorporated into that project that would allow rapidly responding to occurring growth. He stated in this area, service was provided by CSWRF to customers of both Washoe County and the City of Reno. He said this was an area where the cost to dispose of the effluent would drive many of the decisions made. He stated it needed to be recognized that effluent was a valuable resource.

Mr. Smith stated a lot of capable staff was looking at all of the information available, and the message he would like to leave everyone with was, "they were ready then and they were ready now." He stated a lot of the planning efforts were paused during the economic downturn and now those plans were being updated and slid forward. He

said much of the focus for the next ten years would be effluent management, its disposal, and how to use effluent as a resource.

Copies of their PowerPoint presentations were placed on file with the Clerk.

Councilperson Berkhus said regarding equity, the City of Reno did an 8.5 percent rate increase in 2011 up until 2015. She asked if the rate structure for STMWRF had a similar escalation and what percentage of City of Reno residents did the County service. Mr. Smith said when he was talking about equity in the facilities, he was focusing on the connection fees that new development paid for and how to make that as equitable as possible, while recognizing certain jurisdictions would be serviced by a specific facility and while trying to minimize the differences in the costs for the different facilities. He stated the rates on the operational side were generally about the same for the three entities. He said that was used to pay employees and the operating costs. He stated the new growth was primarily funded through connection fees and by loans for larger projects. He said STMWRF was about a 40/60 split between the City of Reno and the County. He stated TMWRF also provided sewer service to a lot of County customers, especially in the Spanish Springs area. He said regarding wastewater, they had to be armin-arm because there were shared areas and shared responsibilities, which he hoped was demonstrated in today's discussion.

Councilperson Berkhus asked if the expansions for Lemmon Valley and Cold Springs would only be paid for by revenues generated out of those facilities. Mr. Smith said Washoe County only had one fund that the connection fees went into, which was used for development.

Councilperson Jardon said there was a tremendous amount of information presented, and they did a fabulous job of putting together a lot of historical information and the data. She asked if the 64,000 approved housing units would meet the needs of Tesla and its ancillary businesses. Kimberly Robinson, Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMPRA) Executive Director, replied she believed those units would be enough to handle the population growth projected through 2034. She said they were at the very early stages of discussing the impact of something like Tesla. She stated the further in we went and the more information we had, the better able we would be to reevaluate that piece. She felt there also needed to be a discussion about whether we had the right type of approved units, which went back to the conversation about the residential lands study. She said she could not give exact answers today, but she was confident a lot was put into play so those pieces could be addressed.

Councilperson Jardon asked if we had the appropriate housing availability for the construction jobs regarding Tesla. Ms. Robinson said that was difficult to answer and was part of what would be answered with the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN) report. She said there needed to be a discussion on how many workers would come from inside of Nevada versus outside of Nevada, how many would be fulltime versus part-time jobs, and how long the jobs would last. She stated

they also needed to understand what the wages would be to be able to understand what the workers could afford to pay for housing. She said they were hoping to bring that information forward early in the New Year.

Councilperson Jardon said regarding water with our current distribution and conservation model, would we meet the short-term needs with regards to the projected growth. Mr. Erwin said they would. He said on TMWA's books there were 6,000 to 8,000 lots where resources were committed, even though a map had not been filed, which was in addition to the vacancies. He stated the annual average growth commitments for Will Serve Letters was 600 to 1,000 acre-feet a year, and there was an ample supply to accommodate that for the next 10 years. Councilperson Jardon asked even with the continued drought. Mr. Erwin responded yes, even with the continued drought.

Councilperson Jardon said regarding wastewater, what would the capacity be without the pipeline to TRIC and could the needs of an increasing population be met. Mr. Krutz said that would mean accelerating the facility expansion at TMWRF to add the new nitrogen removal process, which would be a \$30 to \$40 million capital expenditure. He said that was not currently in the rate structure, but could be added to the rate structure, funded, and constructed.

Reno City Councilperson David Bobzien said he agreed with Commissioner Hartung when he said there was a need for a larger regional focus and collaboration with neighboring jurisdictions. He said there were lessons to be learned from small communities having to deal with quick surges in population due to an influx of construction labor. He felt the housing usage patterns were pretty unique, and that should be kept track of as well.

Councilperson Lawson said the Governor's Office of Economic Development was behind the pipeline to TRIC, but there was no way of knowing what the socio-economic impacts would be. He said a best guess was when the road goes over to Silver Springs, we could guess the lower income workers would go there. He felt particular jobs would end up in different areas. He said if they had an elderly parent they would want to be near a hospital. He felt with the pipeline in particular, we had some horsepower to get it done because, besides being good for Washoe and Storey Counties, it would also be good for Lyon and Churchill Counties. He believed it was a true definition of a regional project, which could be funded at the federal level.

There was no public comment on this item.

Mr. Flansberg said what was heard today about the population estimates, the water, and the sewer treatment capacity meant we had elasticity because we were on pause for a while; but that did not mean we would not continue with our facility planning to make that happen.

Councilperson Jardon asked if updates for this would come back in January. Mr. Erwin said TMWA was in the process of gearing up to do its resource plan in the Spring, which would dovetail and feed into what was being done at the WRWC and with the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission that was updating the Regional Plan. He said those updates would be made available to the Councils and the Commission as directed. He stated the reclamation study would be published sometime this month and no one knew what that would contain. He said that type of information would be unrolled as the spring progressed, and he suggested quarterly updates would be advisable. Councilperson Jardon asked if there would be a regional update in the first quarter. Mr. Erwin said he believed so. Councilperson Jardon asked if that update could include transit

City of Sparks Mayor Gino Martini said there would be a meeting to discuss what topics would be on the agenda for the next concurrent meeting. John Slaughter, County Manager, said the next concurrent meeting scheduled in January would be to discuss getting ready for the Legislative Session. He said the three managers could bring any updates back to their respective entities and would plan for these topics to be on the May 4th agenda.

Commissioner Hartung thanked the entities and their staffs for coming together to solve some really tough issues in the region. He stated he would like to see these meetings happen more often.

Councilperson Bybee asked if education and transportation would be included in the May concurrent meeting. Steve Driscoll, Sparks City Manager, said the managers and the heads of the three elected bodies got together on a monthly basis to talk about future topics. He said the topics that would be the most appropriate for discussion would be brought to the next meeting.

The Reno and Sparks City Councils voted to accept the report.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Chairman Humke, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Weber absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be accepted.

14-1013 AGENDA ITEM 10 – COMMENTS

Agenda Subject: "Comments from the Councils, Commissions, Boards, and Managers."

City of Sparks Councilperson Ron Smith felt there should be a standing agenda item regarding the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC). Reno City Councilperson Naomi Duerr questioned if May 4th would be soon enough to hear from the RTC and about education.

Commissioner Jung said she would like to have the Commission consider the wild-horse issue with regional partners about assisting the wild-horse activists with wild-horse tourism, safety, and preservation. She stated she would also like to start looking at the issue of people shooting near where people were hiking, including getting better enforcement and signage. She said that was a County issue that needed to be taken care of. She stated regarding Uber, she would like to look at how our jurisdiction could support Uber providing a service that was clearly needed. She suggested that might be something to talk to the Legislature about and should be on the agenda for the January concurrent meeting.

Reno City Councilperson Neoma Jardon felt the concurrent meetings should be scheduled for every two months for the duration of 2015. She stated she liked getting these types of presentations as a region.

Commissioner Hartung said there should be a discussion regionally about medical marijuana.

Commissioner Berkbigler suggested the discussion about licensing Uber and other similar types of transportation groups should be on the January meeting's agenda.

Sparks City Councilperson Charlene Bybee said she would be interested in meeting before May to look at transportation and education. She felt the Washoe County School District (WCSD) should be included if education was being addressed. She thanked all of today's presenters for putting together this valuable information, and said she appreciated their time and effort.

Reno City Councilperson David Bobzien said there were already discussions at the Legislature regarding Uber, ridesharing, and taxi cabs. He felt discussing that issue should be moved up to ensure our jurisdictions were on the same page when engaging with the Legislature.

Andrew Clinger, Reno City Manager, said there would be a meeting on December 16, 2014 of the managers and the heads of the three elected bodies to discuss the issues and the timing of the concurrent meetings.

City of Sparks Councilperson Ed Lawson said there needed to be more concurrent meetings, because we needed to be able to react faster to issues.

14-1014 <u>AGENDA ITEM 11</u>

Agenda Subject: "Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person.

Comments are to be made to the Commission, Reno City Council and Sparks City Council as a whole."

Mickey Hazelwood from the Nature Conservancy thanked everyone for holding this meeting about the region's changing water supply and demand concerns. He said he was pleased to see economic growth returning to this region, but there were concerns about the potential impacts to the health of the Truckee River as a result of rapid growth. He stated the jurisdictions had made significant investments in the revitalization and restoration of the Truckee River downstream of the urban core. He said the Conservancy had worked closely with the elected bodies to see those efforts come to fruition and hoped to continue to work with them to protect those investments and to ensure the health of the vital resource that was the Truckee River by ensuring the region had sustainable growth.

Garth Elliott noted Tesla was not coming to Washoe County, but the County would be absorbing the impacts of its coming. He stated Washoe County was not a friendly place to do business because there was a tendency to put up barriers, which needed to change. He said during this meeting there was no discussion about collaboration by the three entities, which needed to happen to solve the big problems facing the area.

Sparks Councilperson Ratti said when the Mayors and Chair meet to discuss the concurrent agendas, it should not be forgotten that we have the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency. She believed some of this needed to live within the structure and systems that already existed and could help this move forward. She said everyone was excited about one big development, but this was an issue for us long term. She felt some thought could be put into what belonged with them and what needed to be discussed with all of the entities at the table.

Commissioner Jung asked why the Washoe County School District's (WCSD) Board of Trustees was not present. Sparks Mayor Geno Martini said the WCSD had opted out of attending the concurrent meetings because they felt they had not been productive. He stated most of the things discussed at the concurrent meetings had nothing to do with the WCSD, but they could be asked again because possibly things had changed.

Reno City Councilperson David Bobzien echoed Commissioner Jung's concerns. He said he understood many of the meetings did not have content of concern to the WCSD. He felt while dealing with issues of growth, he would want to extend the invitation to them again.

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