



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

**800 MHZ JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING DATE:** July 16, 2021

**DATE:** July 12, 2021

**TO:** 800 MHz Joint Operating Committee

**FROM:** Melissa Lawney, Regional Communications Coordinator, Washoe County Technology Services 775-858-5952, [mlawney@washoecounty.us](mailto:mlawney@washoecounty.us)

**THROUGH:** Quinn Korbolic, IT Manager – Regional Services, Washoe County Technology Services

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve and recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve expenditures for Washoe County Regional Communication System Battery replacements at the following communication sites: Slide Mountain, Mt Rose, Marble Bluff, and Snowflake lodge for a cost not to exceed, [\$160,000] for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

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### **SUMMARY**

Recommendation to approve expenditures for Washoe County Regional Communication System Battery replacements at the following communication sites; Slide Mountain, Mt Rose, Marble Bluff, and Snowflake lodge for a cost not to exceed, [\$160,000] for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Washoe County Regional Communication System (WCRCS) member maintains and operates 15 communications sites within Washoe County. Every year a series of maintenance occurs at the sites. Roughly every 6 to 10 years power systems are in need of replacement. The power systems provide back-up emergency power which is critical for public safety. In order to keep with the existing P25 Upgrade schedule, all 4 of these sites will need to have their battery systems upgraded. Snowflake Lodge is the remaining site that also requires additional grounding remediation. These installations will help facilitate installation of the new system and meets the direct power needs of the new system, while still being capable of handling the loads of the older system.

**Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:** Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities and Regional and Community Leadership

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

On September 13, 2016, the Board of County Commissioners approved a sole source purchase from Nor Cal Battery Company of DC power systems and batteries for power upgrades at the Water tank and Snowflake Washoe County Regional Communication System (WCRCS) radio sites for a cost not to exceed [\$200,000].

May 13, 2015, the Board of County Commissioners approved sole source purchases of DC power equipment through Enersys Power/Full Solutions; and approved expenditures not to exceed.

### **BACKGROUND**

Typically, components of the battery system are replaced as needed, usually one component at a time. For the sites specified in this staff report, Slide Mountain, Mt Rose, Marble Bluff, and Snowflake lodge, the DC rectifiers/battery charging modules, batteries and all wiring and grounding will be replaced. The overall cost for a power system unit is estimated at about \$40K. The installation is conducted by our internal team. Battery maintenance and work require extensive training, due to safety reason, it is very important to stay with vendor equipment known to the technical staff. Electrical shock, burns and explosives gases pose significant dangers for the maintainers and installers of power systems. WCRCS in-house crews are familiar with the safety measures and precautions needed for installation. We have developed methods and procedures for this work. Hiring contractors to delivery and install batteries and rectifier units can be costly and dangerous if the contractor is not familiar with the installation. WCRCS has been maintaining and installing these units for a very long time, and these systems are often lasting longer than the average battery replacement cycle.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget has sufficient budget authority in the Washoe County Regional Communications System Fund (210) in RCS Infrastructure (210300), Public Works Construction (814092), in the amount not to exceed [\$160,000].

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve and recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve expenditures for Washoe County Regional Communication System Battery replacements at the following communication sites: Slide Mountain, Mt Rose, Marble Bluff, and Snowflake lodge for a cost not to exceed [\$160,000] for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve and recommend that the Board of County Commissioners approve expenditures for Washoe County Regional Communication System Battery replacements at the following communication sites: Slide Mountain, Mt Rose, Marble Bluff, and Snowflake lodge for a cost not to exceed [\$160,000] for Fiscal Year 2021-2022."