



C I T Y O F
RENO
Memorandum

DATE: October 23, 2026
TO: Mayor and Council
THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, City Manager 
FROM: Jenifer Alvarez, Council Liaison
DEPT: Council & Executive Operations
SUBJECT: Hawk Fire Recovery Efforts Update – October 23, 2026

This memo provides Council with a comprehensive update following the October 6, 2026, Hawk Fire Recovery Efforts Update memo on the City of Reno's recovery efforts.

The Hawk Fire continues into long-term recovery, with Washoe County and the Office of Emergency Management leading regional coordination. All affected properties in Reno and unincorporated Washoe County remain in Phase I of cleanup (household hazardous waste removal), which is about 60% complete for the Hawk Fire.

City of Reno Recovery Efforts

While Washoe County and OEM coordinate the regional response, the City is assisting residents and managing recovery within city limits, including administering AB 540 Disaster Recovery Assistance Program funds for anyone in Reno, Sparks, or unincorporated Washoe County. City staff coordinate weekly with OEM, Washoe County, state and federal agencies, and community partners.

Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND)

At the October 21, 2026, City Council meeting, Council approved a grant agreement from the State of Nevada, Department of Business and Industry, Nevada Housing Division, for up to \$2,000,000 to provide rental assistance to eligible households in Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County with incomes at or below 150% of the Area Median Income (AMI). HAND began administering the Disaster Relief Assistance Program (DRAP) on September 3, 2026, to address the housing needs of households affected by the wildfire.

HAND has approved disaster relief assistance for 67 households, an increase of 13 households since the last update. Of these households, 63 are located in Reno and four are located in Sparks; none are located in unincorporated Washoe County. Nineteen applications remain pending, and no applications have been denied due to household income. All households previously residing in motels have transitioned to permanent housing. Housing navigation services continue for three households currently staying with family or friends. HAND also holds weekly data-sharing meetings with Catholic Charities and provides additional in-person assistance to help applicants complete their applications.

Utility Services

Since the last update, Utility Services has participated in two post-fire flooding education and outreach sub-committee meetings organized by the local National Weather Service office. Participants included the State of Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR) Floodplain Manager, the National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator, the Washoe County Engineer and Communications representatives, and representatives from the City of Reno's Utility Services, Communications, and Fire departments.

The group reviewed information from the Hawk Fire Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) report and discussed post-fire education and outreach efforts. These efforts include educational flyers, targeted postcard mailings, presentations at Neighborhood Advisory Board and County Advisory Board meetings, and pop-up events at schools and grocery stores. The group will continue meeting regularly and collaborating to support and inform the public.

Next Steps

City staff will continue meeting weekly with Washoe County to implement the Recovery Action Plan, monitor Bright Harbor needs data for Reno residents, process pending HAND applications, and share regional efforts to inform the public. Staff will update Council when Phase I is complete, when stormwater recommendations are finalized, and if the Army Corps debris report changes the City's approach.