



C I T Y O F
RENO
Memorandum

DATE: October 20, 2026

TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, City Manager

FROM: Trina Magoon, PE, Director of Utility Services
Mary Horvath, PE, Senior Civil Engineer

DEPT: Utility Services

SUBJECT: West Wash Dam Rehabilitation Project –Environmental Assessment (EA) -
Hybrid Public Meeting

A third public meeting for the West Wash Dam Rehabilitation Project has been scheduled for **Tuesday, October 20, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm** at Reno City Hall, first floor Council Chambers or virtually via Zoom. This meeting will present the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) document for the Project and solicit comments from the public. This is the final meeting for the EA, and once approved, the City and NRCS will proceed through final design of the dam rehabilitation project.

Public Noticing for the meeting will include:

- Mailings to appropriate agency representatives
- Mailings to residents within 1,000 feet of the dam
- Postings placed near the dam entrances
- Newspaper (RGJ) advertisement
- Project website update: [West Wash Dam Rehabilitation](#)

Background:

The West Wash Dam was constructed in 1960 under the direction and authority of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 83-566). The East Wash Diversion Dam, constructed in 1961 under the same program, contributes storm water flow from the Peavine Mountain watershed into the West Wash Dam. The original watershed plans for these dams used an evaluated life of 50 years. Having reached over 50 years in age, the dams are eligible for rehabilitation through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program. The West Wash Dam is one of the largest of the ten high hazard dams owned and maintained by the City of Reno which are permitted by the State Engineers Office. A high-hazard dam is classified based on its location and the potential consequences of a failure, not necessarily because it is likely to fail or in poor condition.

Funding:

The National Dam Safety Act grant will fully fund all planning, engineering design, environmental permitting, and quality assurance services for the project, currently estimated at \$1,549,000. Project construction funding is also available through the NRCS at 65% with a 35% City local match. The consultant retained for the Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment is Dowl Engineering.

Next Steps:

The City and NRCS will incorporate public and stakeholder comments into the final Environmental Document. The City will then work with NRCS to design and construct the preferred alternative. Design and construction of the rehabilitation is expected to cost approximately \$19.2 million with project costs split of NRCS 65% and City of Reno 35%. Reno's portion has been included in the City's sewer fund 5-year Capital Improvement Program. Project construction is anticipated to begin in 2028/2029 and last up to 3-years.