

Truckee River Fund Grant Priorities

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) recommends that the Truckee River Fund (TRF) Advisory Committee (the “Committee”) give preference to well-supported, clearly drafted grant requests that consider substantial benefits to TMWA customers for projects and programs that mitigate substantial threats to water quality and the watershed, particularly those threats upstream or nearby water treatment and hydroelectric plant intakes.

- I. **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, Lake Tahoe, other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.
- II. **Watershed Improvements:** Projects that reduce erosion or sediment, suspended solids, or total dissolve solids (TDS) discharges, nutrients, industrial contaminants, or bacterial pollutants to the River. Projects or programs that are located within 303d (impaired waters) and total maximum daily load (TMDL) sections of the River should be considered, both in California and Nevada. Innovative techniques should be encouraged. The following link identifies impaired sections of the river and its tributaries: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/>.
- III. **Local Stormwater Improvements:** Projects that demonstrably mitigate storm water run-off due to urbanization of the local watershed. Priority should be given to those improvement projects in close proximity to TMWA’s water supply intakes and canals and which will improve the reliability and protect the quality of the community’s municipal water supply.
- IV. **Re-Forestation and Re-Vegetation Projects:** Projects to restore forest and upland areas damaged by fire and historical logging operations, and to improve watershed resiliency in drought situations. Projects/programs in this category should be given a high priority due to urbanization of the watershed and increased susceptibility of the urban and suburban watershed to wildfire.
- V. **Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses:** Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.
- VI. **Stewardship and Environmental Awareness:** Support to clean-up programs and the development and implementation of educational programs relative to water, water quality and watershed protection that do not fall clearly into the one of the above-mentioned categories.

Notes:

- For proposals related to weed control/eradication, contact Lauren Renda at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at lrenda@nevadafund.org.
- For proposals in the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Truckee River Fund (TRF) typically only funds proposals related to Priority I and VI.

Grantee Requirements & Project Evaluation Criteria

GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for funding, grantees must adhere to the following requirements:

- Funds are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- The Fund shall be used exclusively for projects that protect and enhance water quality or water resources of the Truckee River, or its watershed.
- Grantees may include 501(c)(3) organizations and governmental entities. Any grants to governmental entities must be made exclusively for public benefit purposes.
- All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement stipulating their agreement to all applicable terms, conditions, and reporting requirements.
- Organizations or entities sponsoring proposals are prohibited from ex parte communications with members of the Committee regarding such proposals while those proposals are pending before the Committee, and such communications may be grounds for rejecting a proposal.
- All applicants must provide a **match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION

For each proposal submitted and recommended by the Committee the TMWA Board of Directors has absolute discretion to:

- Accept or reject any proposal;
- Accept a proposal on the condition that certain modifications be made;
- Assess proposals as they see fit, without in any way being obligated to select any proposal;
- Determine whether proposals satisfactorily meet the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP;
- Reject proposals with or without cause, whether based on the evaluation criteria set out above or otherwise.

PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

- To maintain eligibility to receive grant funds, each Charitable Beneficiary must comply at all times with the following requirements:
 1. Must be exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code;
 2. Shall use all Fund distributions toward projects that are appropriate and legal public expenditures;
 3. Must provide financial details and/or reports of their organizations upon request;
 4. Must submit quarterly reports;
 5. Must not use any Fund distributions for political contributions or political advocacy;
 6. Must either implement the projects, activities, and/or programs for which they received Fund distributions within six months of the date in which such distributions are received or by date(s) as agreed upon in the grant acceptance agreement, or must return all such distributions to the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada forthwith;
 7. Must provide the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada a report detailing the completion of their projects, activities, and/or programs; and
 8. Must sign an agreement regarding their compliance with the qualifications hereof.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications are evaluated according to the following criteria and in order of priority . If the grant applicant does not meet the “Grantee Requirements”, the application will not be considered.

1. RELEVANCE OF PROPOSAL TO THE TRF PROGRAM
 - a. Address TRF grant priorities – Does the project address at least one of the TRF grant priorities, as described at the beginning of the RFP?
 - b. Meet multiple objectives – Does the project meet multiple grant priorities?
 - c. Public benefit of the project – Does the project help TMWA protect its sources of drinking water?
 - d. Benefit to TMWA customers – Is there a direct benefit to TMWA customers?
 - e. Project location – Is the project located upstream of one of TMWA’s water treatment plants?

2. QUALITY OF PROJECT DESIGN
 - a. Appropriateness of selected project methods – Do the proposed project strategies make sense to address the watershed and/or water quality concern(s) outlined by the applicant?
 - b. Thoroughness of project design – Is the project design adequately detailed to ensure the desired outcome(s)?
 - c. Sustainability of project – Will the benefits of the project continue after the grant funds are expended?
 - d. Project longevity – If ongoing operation & maintenance (O&M) is required to maintain benefits, is it funded?
 - e. Consideration of existing research – Does the project consider existing research, planning efforts, or assessments related to the Truckee River watershed?

3. MEASURABILITY OF PROJECT SUCCESS
 - a. Identification of project benchmarks or milestones – Has the applicant described the steps necessary to complete the project?
 - b. Demonstrated ability to measure the results of the project – Does the project have adequate measurable outcomes to evaluate project success?
 - c. Benefits expected from a successful project – Are there clear goals that will be obtained on project completion?
 - d. Readiness to begin project – Is the grant applicant ready to undertake and complete the project?

4. EFFECTIVENESS OF ORGANIZATION
 - a. Qualifications of applicant for the proposed project – Does the applicant have adequate experience and credentials to perform the work described in the application?
 - b. Collaborative efforts – Are there partner organizations supporting or benefiting from the project?
 - c. Demonstrated ability of applicant to manage and complete the project – Has the applicant successfully completed projects similar to the one proposed? If previously funded by TRF, has the applicant met performance requirements and completed projects successfully?

5. ADEQUACY OF PROPOSED BUDGET

- a. Availability and status of matching funds – Does the project provide a minimum of 25 percent match in cash and/or in-kind services? If the project is downstream of the USGS Vista gage, is the 25 percent match requirement met using cash match?
- b. Total project cost relative to benefits – Is the project cost reasonable given the expected project outcome(s)?
- c. Appropriateness of budget – Are the costs presented in the budget adequately detailed and do they seem reasonable? Is the project under the 25 percent indirect/overhead expense limit?

Sample Budget Template

Budget Item Description	\$/unit	Quantity	Quantity Type	TRF Funding	Other Funders	Match	Total Cost
Salaries and Wages							
Project Manager	X	X	Hours				
Program Manager	X	X	Hours				
Engineer 2	X	X	Hours				
Fringe Benefits	X	X					
Full-Time Employees	X	X	Hours				
Volunteers	X	X					
Contractual Construction							
Planning	X	X	Contract				
Design	X	X	Contract				
Engineering Services during Design	X	X	Contract				
Environmental / Permitting	X	X	Contract				
Project / Program Management							
Construction Management	X	X	Contract				
Materials	X	X	Contract				
Construction Contract	X	X	Contract				
Total Direct Costs							
Indirect Costs/Overhead (≤25% of budget)	X						
Total Project Costs							