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Historic implementation of Truckee River Operating Agreement

CARSON CITY, Nev. – More than 20 years and thousands of hours of negotiations between the States of Nevada and California, the United States, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, have been rewarded with the implementation of the Truckee River Operating Agreement. The Agreement establishes a fair and equitable allocation of the waters of the Truckee and Carson Rivers and the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The allocation Agreement affirms that waters of the Carson River are to be divided in accordance with the existing Alpine Decree; provides for authorization to use water in the Lake Tahoe Basin consistent with environmental goals; establishes and limits water allocations in the basin to both states that protects downstream rights and uses; and establishes an upper limit for use of Truckee River water in California, with the balance allocated to the State of Nevada.

Director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Leo Drozdoff said, “This Interstate Allocation provides stability and assurances for water systems and the public in both states. The ability to store and transfer Truckee River water, especially in times of drought, is particularly beneficial to the Reno/Sparks metropolitan area.”

Nevada State Engineer Jason King emphasized that the entire Operating Agreement assures the protection of existing water rights and uses in both states, “Agreement provisions and actions required in both states were subject to intense deliberation and scrutiny to assure that protection today and in the future.”

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