



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 8, 2026

DATE: August 20, 2026

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Aaron Smith, Operations Division Director
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THROUGH: Eric Crump, Director,
Community Services Dept., 775-328-3625, ecrump@washoecounty.gov

SUBJECT: Recommendation to acknowledge receipt of a report of an emergency procurement contract awarded pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 338.011 to Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc., on a time-and-materials basis [estimated at \$4,300,000], in response to a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public caused by the Hidden Valley debris-laden flash flood event on June 19, 2026. (Commission District 4.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

On June 19, 2026, an intense storm event above Hidden Valley delivered approximately 2 to 3 inches of precipitation in less than one hour — a rainfall magnitude with an estimated annual probability of 0.2% to 0.5% (200- to 500-year recurrence interval). The storm mobilized natural loose rock and debris from the steep terrain above the community, producing a debris-laden flash flood that deposited significant quantities of mud, rock, and debris throughout the neighborhood north of Hidden Valley Regional Park. The resulting debris flows obstructed public rights-of-way and stormwater infrastructure, creating immediate public-safety and flooding risks. Impacted public assets include approximately 365,171 square feet of pavement, 14,857 feet of pipe, 8,009 feet of ditch, 58,411 square feet of detention basin, and 105 catch basins. Delaying restoration work would prolong unsafe roadway conditions, reduce stormwater capacity, and increase the risk of additional flooding and infrastructure damage during future storms.

Staff engaged with Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc (SNC) who was one of the few contractors with immediate capacity, specialized equipment, and relevant experience working within Washoe County's stormwater and roadway infrastructure to support this emergency response. SNC provided a time-and-materials rate sheet. Washoe County staff directed, supervised, and reviewed daily work accounting logs. Final invoicing is occurring and will continue to be validated and reconciled against daily time and material reports.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Staff is requesting that the Board of County Commissioners acknowledge receipt of an updated report to an emergency procurement contract awarded pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 338.011 to Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc. in response to a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public, caused by the Hidden Valley debris laden flash flood event on June 19, 2026. This report provides the Board with an overview of the emergency procurement process undertaken in accordance with NRS 338.011, which allows for expedited contracting in response to disasters that threaten public health and safety, ensuring that critical response and recovery actions can proceed without delay. The purpose of this item is to formally document the County's compliance with statutory requirements for emergency contracting and to maintain transparency in the use of public resources during disaster response.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability:
Long-term sustainability.

PREVIOUS ACTION

June 26, 2026 - The Board of County Commissioners (Board) ratified the June 19, 2026 Declaration of State of Emergency by the Washoe County Manager pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 414 and Washoe County Code (WCC) 65.320.

November 19, 2024 - The Board acknowledge receipt of an updated report to an emergency procurement contract awarded pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 338.011 to Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc., [in the amount of \$965,000.00] in response to a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public, caused by the Hidden Valley debris laden flash flood event on July 21, 2024.

September 10, 2024 – The Board acknowledge receipt of a Report of two emergency procurement contracts awarded pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 338.011 to [Taurus Construction in the amount of \$129,775.00 and to Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$275,000.00] in response to a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public, caused by the Hidden Valley debris laden flash flood event on July 21, 2024.

BACKGROUND

The County's approach to emergency procurement for disaster response is grounded in statutory authority provided by Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 338.011, which permits public bodies to bypass standard competitive bidding requirements when responding to emergencies that threaten public health, safety, or welfare. This legal framework enables rapid contracting for essential services and infrastructure restoration following natural disasters, such as flash floods, by allowing immediate engagement with qualified contractors and requiring subsequent reporting to the governing body at the next regular meeting. Washoe County has previously relied on this authority to address urgent needs arising from severe weather events, ensuring that emergency response actions are both timely and compliant with state law. [NRS 338.011]

In addition to statutory requirements, Washoe County's emergency management practices emphasize coordinated interagency response, prioritization of life safety, and the restoration of critical public infrastructure. The County's protocols call for immediate assessment of damage, mobilization of internal and external resources, and ongoing communication with state and federal partners to facilitate recovery and potential reimbursement. These practices are informed by lessons learned from prior flood events and are integrated into the County's broader hazard mitigation and infrastructure management strategies, which include regular maintenance of stormwater assets and alignment with regional hazard mitigation planning.

NRS 338.011 as listed:

NRS 338.011 Applicability: Contracts related to normal operation and normal maintenance; contracts related to emergency. The requirements of this chapter do not apply to a contract:

1. Awarded in compliance with chapter 332 or 333 of NRS which is directly related to the normal operation of the public body or the normal maintenance of its property.
2. Awarded to meet an emergency which results from a natural or artificially created disaster and which threatens the health, safety or welfare of the public. If the public body or its authorized representative determines that an emergency exists, a contract or contracts necessary to contend with the emergency may be let without complying with the requirements of this chapter. If such emergency action was taken by the authorized representative, the authorized representative shall report the contract or contracts to the public body at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the public body.

The Board has previously utilized this statute for emergency responses, such as the authorization of emergency flood mitigation systems during the 2024 Hidden Valley Debris Laden Flow and 2017 Lemmon Valley flood.

The SNC contract total estimated cost to complete is \$4,300,000. The project was divided into four subprojects.

1. Hidden Valley Lower Stormwater Restoration

Scope: Restoring stormwater capacity of publicly owned infrastructure to original design, generally north of the park (major drainage channels, box culverts, inlet pipes, drainage easement access).

Total Estimate Cost: \$880,000

2. Hidden Valley Park Stormwater Restoration

Scope: Restoring stormwater capacity of publicly owned infrastructure to original design within the park (major drainage channels, retention ponds, pipes, drainage easement access).

Total Estimate Cost: \$895,000

3. Hidden Valley Street Cleaning / Stormwater Restoration

Scope: Restoring public ROWs to pavement condition; mud/debris removal via water jetting and sweeping.

Total Estimate Cost: \$300,000

4. Hidden Valley Upper “Private” Stormwater Restoration

Scope: Addressing privately owned infrastructure posing an immediate community risk (upper elevation retention ponds and TMWA water tank access road stormwater assets).

Total Estimate Cost: \$2,225,000

FISCAL IMPACT

Invoices associated with the SNC contract are being incurred by Roads Maintenance (C216002), Service Contract (710200), 2026 Hidden Valley Flash Flood (70961), in the estimated amount of \$4,300,000. Additional costs, such as Washoe County response personnel, minor services & supplies, etc. have also been incurred. Stabilization Reserve Account funds and General Fund Contingency funds will be requested for BCC approval under a separate item. Funding for the SNC costs will be appropriated to the Roads Fund, Roads Maintenance (C216002).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners acknowledge receipt of a report of an emergency procurement contract awarded pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 338.011 to Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc., on a time-and-materials basis [estimated at \$4,300,000], in response to a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public caused by the Hidden Valley debris-laden flash flood event on June 19, 2026.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: “Move to acknowledge receipt of a report of an emergency procurement contract awarded pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 338.011 to Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc., on a time-and-materials basis [estimated at \$4,300,000], in response to a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public caused by the Hidden Valley debris-laden flash flood event on June 19, 2026.”