

Staff Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

DATE: September 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding for the High School Ranch

ADMINISTRATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Nevada Union Joint High School District (School District) and Nevada Irrigation District (District).

BACKGROUND:

The Nevada Union Joint High School District (School District) recently established a high school farm on an 86-acre ranch located in South Nevada County. The District Ranch provides a unique outdoor classroom where students can engage in real-world hands-on agricultural training. Through the career technical education program, the Ranch provides pathways such as animal science, ag business, ag mechanics, and ornamental horticulture.

Since water is vital to the success of the High School Ranch, staff have met with the School District several times to understand potential areas of collaboration. The attached MOU establishes a framework for collaboration between the two parties to promote:

1. Improved agricultural water use efficiency, particularly as it relates to education, demonstration, and best management practices; and
2. Enhanced public outreach and education regarding water conservation, sustainable agriculture, and responsible water resource management.

The MOU gives the District an opportunity to partner on agricultural water-use efficiency programs and public education and outreach. Accordingly, staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize execution of the MOU.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

A budget amendment is not required to implement this proposal.

Attachment: (1)

- Memorandum of Understanding between Nevada Union Joint High School District and Nevada Irrigation District

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between Nevada Union Joint High School District and Nevada Irrigation District

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into as of **[Effective Date]**, by and between **Nevada Union Joint High School District**, a public school district organized under the laws of the State of California (“School District”), and **Nevada Irrigation District**, a public irrigation district organized under the laws of the State of California (“District”). The School District and the District may be referred to individually as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties.”

1. Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a framework for collaboration between the Parties to promote:

1. Improved agricultural water use efficiency, particularly as it relates to education, demonstration, and best management practices; and
2. Enhanced public outreach and education regarding water conservation, sustainable agriculture, and responsible water resource management.

This MOU is intended to facilitate cooperation, information sharing, and joint activities that advance mutual public-benefit goals.

2. Guiding Principles

The Parties agree that collaboration under this MOU shall be guided by the following principles:

- Stewardship of water resources as a shared public responsibility
- Support for science-based, data-driven decision-making
- Alignment with applicable state, regional, and local water conservation goals
- Engagement of students, educators, agricultural producers, and the broader community
- Transparency, mutual respect, and voluntary participation

3. Areas of Collaboration

3.1 Agricultural Water Use Efficiency

The Parties intend to collaborate, subject to available resources, in the following areas:

- Development and support of educational programs related to efficient agricultural water use, irrigation technologies, soil moisture management, and crop water needs
- Use of school facilities, school farms, or agricultural education programs (where applicable) as demonstration or learning sites for water-efficient practices
- Sharing of non-confidential data, research, and technical information relevant to agricultural water efficiency
- Coordination on workshops, field days, or trainings for students, educators, and agricultural stakeholders
- Identification of opportunities to align educational activities with regional or state agricultural water efficiency initiatives

3.2 Public Outreach and Education

The Parties intend to collaborate on public outreach efforts that may include:

- Joint development and dissemination of educational materials related to water conservation and sustainable agriculture
- Classroom presentations, assemblies, or curriculum-aligned activities led or supported by Water District staff
- Community events, open houses, or public forums that highlight water efficiency and agricultural sustainability
- Outreach campaigns that engage students as ambassadors for water stewardship within their families and communities

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 School District Responsibilities

The School District may, as resources allow:

- Facilitate access to appropriate educational settings, programs, or facilities for collaborative activities
- Coordinate with teachers, administrators, and staff to integrate agreed-upon activities into educational programming
- Assist in outreach to students, parents, and the school community
- Designate a primary point of contact for coordination under this MOU

4.2 District Responsibilities

The District may, as resources allow:

- Provide technical expertise related to water use efficiency and water resource management
- Support educational and outreach activities through staff participation, informational materials, or technical assistance
- Share relevant, non-confidential data or reports that support educational objectives
- Designate a primary point of contact for coordination under this MOU

5. Funding and Resources

This MOU does not obligate either Party to expend funds or enter into any financial commitment. Any future funding, cost-sharing, or resource contributions shall be subject to separate written agreements and approval by the appropriate governing authorities of each Party.

6. Term and Termination

This MOU shall become effective on the date first written above and shall remain in effect for a period of three (3) years, unless terminated earlier.

Either Party may terminate this MOU without cause upon **30 days'** written notice to the other Party.

7. Non-Binding Nature

This MOU is intended solely as an expression of the Parties' mutual intentions. It does not create any legally binding obligations, partnership, joint venture, or agency relationship between the Parties.

8. Compliance with Laws

All activities conducted pursuant to this MOU shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and policies, including but not limited to those governing public education, water management, and public agency conduct.

9. Indemnification and Liability

Each Party shall be responsible for its own acts and omissions and those of its officers, employees, and agents, in accordance with applicable law. Nothing in this MOU is intended to alter or expand any statutory immunities or limitations on liability.

10. Amendments

This MOU may be amended only by a written document signed by authorized representatives of both Parties.

11. Entire Understanding

This MOU represents the Parties' entire understanding of the subject matter herein and supersedes all prior discussions or understandings regarding this collaboration.

12. Authorized Signatures

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the date first written above.

Nevada Union Joint High School District

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Nevada Irrigation District

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____