Staff Report

for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors, December 13, 2017

TO: Honorable Board of Directors

FROM: Keane Sommers, P.E., Hydroelectric Manager

DATE: December 5, 2017

SUBJECT: **Hydroelectric Department Training Request (Consent)**

HYDROELECTRIC

RECOMMENDATION:
Approve expenditure of approximately $120,000.00 for training, lodging, meals, and related expenses for Hydroelectric Department Staff to attend training in 2018 as recommended by the Water and Hydroelectric Operations Committee.

BACKGROUND:
Hydroelectric Department Plant Operators, Electrical Machinists, and Systems Technicians are responsible for the operation and maintenance of high risk Nevada Irrigation District assets including seven powerhouses, three flume systems, and more than a dozen dams that supply water from the upper division to the water distribution system. Having well trained staff ensures that the assets are maintained by people that are capable of performing their duties to the highest standard possible, minimizing the risk to the public.

The District has not been successful in recruiting journey level or higher candidates for these positions and must provide training for entry level employees. The District is actively seeking classes for a variety of venues including Pacific Gas & Electric, universities and colleges, and private vendors in order to provide a level of knowledge that meets industry standards and ensures that District staff is able to respond to the situations they face during their normal job duties.

Currently several employees are involved in multi-year programs and will be budgeted for in future years. In 2017 there was insufficient room in some of these classes to accommodate NID employees.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:
The amount of $120,000.00 includes applicable taxes, fuel, and toll
charges and is included in the Hydroelectric Department FY2018 budget.

The classes scheduled for 2019 and beyond will be budgeted in the appropriate
Fiscal Year(s) and returned to the Committee/Board for approval.

KSS