Nevada Irrigation District

Staff Report

for the Maintenance and Resources Management Committee Meeting of May 26, 2020

TO: Maintenance and Resources Management Committee

FROM: Jacqueline Longshore, Maintenance Manager JL

DATE: May 20, 2020

SUBJECT: **Update on the Integrated Vegetation Management Program**

MAINTENANCE

RECOMMENDATION

Receive an informational update on the status of the District Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) Program projects.

BACKGROUND

Nevada Irrigation District provides water service to over 25,000 homes, businesses and farms throughout a 450 square-mile service area within portions of Nevada, Placer, and Yuba Counties. NID provides raw water, primarily for agricultural irrigation, and treated potable water for domestic, commercial, municipal, and industrial use. In an effort to deliver reliable and low-cost water to customers, the District's Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) Program incorporates the use of biological, chemical, cultural, and mechanical treatments to control vegetation growth in and around District infrastructure.

Unmanaged vegetation in and around District facilities impedes water flow, chokes off canals, reduces water storage capacity, contributes to wildfire hazards, and impacts water quality and public health. The District IVM Program is a critical element of District efforts to ensure reliable delivery of water for human consumption, irrigation, and fire suppression. The District IVM Program aims to continue implementation of adaptive management techniques that are environmentally sound, effective, efficient, fiscally prudent, and compliant with regulatory requirements.

In researching new and innovative vegetation control methods to add to its IVM Program, District efforts have included trial studies of using acetic acid (vinegar) with UC Davis researchers, barley straw, corn gluten, thermal steaming, burning, tarping, grazing, weed whacking, abrasive blasting, and organic herbicide testing. Recently, the IVM Program completed application and monitoring of the Phase 3 Study, initiated the plan for annual goat grazing, and released a Request for Proposals for a Study of the Costs of Eliminating Glyphosate from the District IVM Program.

Phase 3 Study

The Phase 3 Study focused on alternative herbicide applications of Opportune, Weed Slayer, and Scythe. The final alternative herbicide applications were performed on March 6, 2020, with follow-up monitoring and data collection events completed on March 12th, March 30th, and April 28th, 2020. Presentation of the final report is planned for July 2020.

Goat Grazing

The annual goat grazing of vegetation at District facilities is anticipated to begin in mid-June. Goat grazing treatments are planned for the Cunningham and Sugar Loaf Reservoir sites. The District received two quotes from goat grazing vendors and is currently in review of those quotes.

Glyphosate Costs Study

On May 15, 2020, the District issued Request for Proposals to perform a Study of the Costs of Eliminating Glyphosate from the District Integrated Vegetation Management Program. The Study is to produce a thorough investigation of available glyphosate alternatives and the costs associated with the deployment of each alternative as a replacement of Glyphosate. The Study is also expected to implement a survey of entities within California that have discontinued the use of Glyphosate, to gain information and insight into the results, impacts, and overall experience. The final study report is anticipated in September 2020.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

No budgetary impact

JSL