

Memorandum

REPORT TO: City Commission

FROM: Brian Heaston, Engineer III
Shawn Kohtz, Director of Utilities

SUBJECT: Authorize the City Manager to sign a Joint Funding Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey for the continued operation of the real-time streamflow gaging stations on the East Gallatin River and Hyalite Creek for federal fiscal year 2026.

MEETING DATE: September 23, 2025

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Agreement - Agency/Non-profit

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the City Manager to sign a Joint Funding Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey for the continued operation of the real-time streamflow gaging stations on the East Gallatin River and Hyalite Creek for federal fiscal year 2026.

STRATEGIC PLAN: 1.3 Public Agencies Collaboration: Foster successful collaboration with other public agencies and build on these successes.

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) operates a real-time streamflow gaging station on the East Gallatin River near the City's Water Reclamation Facility and on Hyalite Creek near the mouth of Hyalite Canyon. These gages record continuous real-time streamflow data that are made publicly available on the USGS website. Real-time flow gaging provides beneficial data for the City that may be utilized for a multitude of purposes, including: issuing flood warnings, local drought stage monitoring, assessing climate impacts to long-term water availability trends, and discharge permit compliance.

The City and USGS have historically partnered on funding the annual maintenance and operations costs for the East Gallatin River gage. The addition of joint funding for the Hyalite Creek gage was a new funding share for the City for federal fiscal year 2023. Continued joint funding for both the East Gallatin and Hyalite gages for the upcoming federal FY26 (Oct 1 – Sept 30) is provided for in the attached Joint Funding Agreement.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None.

ALTERNATIVES: As suggested by the City Commission.

FISCAL EFFECTS: The City's cost share for the federal FY26 JFA totals \$27,470 (\$13,735 for each of the two gages). The FY26 Wastewater Reclamation Facility operating

budget has sufficient line item budget to cover the East Gallatin River gage costs. The FY26 Water Conservation Division operating budget has sufficient line item budget to cover the Hyalite Creek gage costs.

Attachments:

[USGS_JFA_26RSJFA005_00.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: September 9, 2025