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**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Board Agenda Memo**

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**MEETING DATE:** December 10, 2024

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** **Craig Griesbach – Director of Emergency Services**

**SUBJECT:** Resolution adopting the 2024 Nevada County Hazard Mitigation Plan - Volume I.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** The County of Nevada was awarded FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds for the HMGP DR-4558-288-088P County of Nevada Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update in the amount of \$112,500 with a required 25% local match of \$37,500. The Board accepted these funds and match contribution plan through Resolution 23-048 to update the 2018 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. There is no further fiscal impact resulting from this resolution.

**BACKGROUND:** The Nevada County Office of Emergency Services has been working with local stakeholders, the public and the projects contractor, Tetra Tech, to complete the 5-year rewrite of the 2024 Nevada County Hazard Mitigation Plan Volume I Basic Plan and Volume II Jurisdictional Annexes. This plan has been reviewed and approved by the California Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES) and Volume 1 (Base Plan) has been approved by FEMA Region IX pending our County Board approval. A current and approved County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is necessary for acceptance of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funding (HMGP). These funds have been used locally to support mitigation efforts such as the funding of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan rewrite as well as programming that created defensible space for hundreds of Nevada County residents with Access and Functional Needs.

The previous County of Nevada Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and expired on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. A letter of Extraordinary Circumstances was submitted to CAL OES on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to address the expiration of the plan as it relates to existing FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grant awards. The previous LHMP core document was over 900 pages and had annexes for the County of Nevada, Truckee Donner PUD, Washington County Water District, Nevada Irrigation District, Grass Valley, Nevada City and the Town of Truckee. Each of these entities were participants in the planning process and made up the Planning Partners. In the 2024 plan rewrite the same partners participated with the additional Planning Partner of Nevada County Consolidated Fire District.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) PL-106-390 requires that each Jurisdiction develop a hazard mitigation plan in order to receive future disaster mitigation funding following a disaster. The purpose of the DMA 2000 requirements is to encourage State and local governments to engage in systematic and nationally uniform planning efforts that will result in locally tailored programs and projects that help minimize loss of life, destruction of property, damage to the environment and the total cost of disasters before they occur.

The County of Nevada Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update includes a mitigation strategy that provides our jurisdiction's blueprint for reducing the potential losses identified in the risk assessment, based on existing authorities, policies, programs and resources. Other benefits of a current Local Hazard Mitigation Plan aside from an improved understanding of risks and vulnerabilities would be an outline for sustainable actions that build resiliency and a measurable reduction in the negative impact of natural hazards, saving lives, reducing property damage and speeding recovery efforts.

The LHMP is also part of the roadmap to resilience. The roadmap consists of three core plans – the **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**, the **Community Wildfire Protection Plan**, and an **Evacuation Study**. These planning efforts involve working closely with residents and community partners to ensure that the hazards we face are articulated accurately, that priorities are identified collaboratively, and that the resulting recommendations are actionable.

In anticipation of needing to be able to fund the requisite LHMP Update in a timely manner, Nevada County Office of Emergency Services submitted a grant proposal to the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) on March 1, 2021. Nevada County OES actively corresponded with our Cal OES Grant Specialist – Inland Unit regarding the timing of a potential grant award for the LHMP Update throughout 2022. It was made clear to County staff again and again that this was FEMA's number one priority project to fund with HMGP funds. We learned on November 4, 2022, that funding was awarded (HMGP DR-4558—288-088P, County of Nevada Local Hazard Mitigation Plan). These funds (\$112,500) were brought to the Board of Supervisors on 24 January 2023 with a request for a local County match of (\$37,500) which was satisfied by the Community Wildfire Coordinator's staff time completing the Wildfire Risk Assessment (WRA) component of the LHMP.

The county of Nevada Purchasing team followed the federal procurement process as was required by the grantor and conducted a formal solicitation for the plan contractor. A panel reviewed 8 submissions to the Request for Proposal and the top vendor selected was Tetra Tech. OES began work with Tetra Tech with our first kickoff meeting August 15<sup>th</sup> 2023 and continued work with them up thru November of 2024.

The Planning Process follows 7 phases as part of the scope of work. 1: Organize Resources, 2: Identify hazards and perform a risk assessment, 3: Public Involvement strategy, 4: Identify goals, objectives, capabilities and actions, 5: Develop the plan for monitoring, evaluating and updating the plan, 6: Assemble the plan, 7: Plan review and adoption. We are currently in the 7th Phase of the Planning Process.

Planning Partners all submitted letters of commitment demonstrating their jurisdictions commitment to the yearlong planning process. A Planning Team was created to oversee the planning process and a steering committee consisting of local partners with a connection to mitigation efforts met periodically to weigh in on the planning process with thoughts, comments, and suggestions. While the Planning Team decides, the Steering Committee was chosen to affirm the decisions made by the Planning Team. This group was comprised of local stakeholders from government, community groups, academia, socially vulnerable groups, and planning partners and was overseen by a chair and vice chair.

One of the first orders of business was to establish plan goals and identify the most likely hazards our county might face. This work was completed by the Planning Partners and endorsed by the Steering Committee in July of 2024.

In June of 2024 a community survey was jointly created to share countywide to gather information from residents around their top concerns related to hazard and risk. Also, in June all local dam owners and operators were contacted regarding their specific dam information and risk data. In early August 2024 the plan was shared with stakeholders for review and approval and was posted for Public Comment between August 13th and August 28th of 2024. These public inputs were catalogued, responded to and incorporated into the draft plan. On August 30th the plan was submitted to CAL OES for review and was returned to stakeholders and the contractor on the 2nd of October. It was then returned to CAL OES on the 16th of October. After a second review by CAL OES, they then sent the Volume I base plan to FEMA on the 25th of October where it was approved by FEMA Region IX on November 29th.

The Office of Emergency Services requests the County of Nevada Board of Supervisors accept and adopt the FEMA approved Nevada County Hazard Mitigation Plan Volume 1.

**Item Initiated by:** Paul Cummings, OES Program Manager

**Approved by:** Craig Griesbach, Director, OES