



COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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Mali Dyck
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Director of Public Works

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: January 12, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Trisha Tillotson, Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing Environmental Clearance for the Egress/Ingress Fire Safety Project

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The resolution to authorize environmental clearance for the project does not have a financial impact. The work done under this Environmental Clearance will be included in the Nevada County Department of Public Works Capital Improvement Program fiscal years 2020/21 and 2021/22 and funded with CALFIRE grant funds and Road Funds. There is no budget amendment required and no additional impact to the General Fund.

BACKGROUND: This project consists of removing all vegetation with stems and trunks smaller than six inches in diameter within 15 feet of the edge of the traveled way, on approximately 200 miles of County-maintained roads as listed in Exhibit A. The purpose of the project is to provide safer egress routes for emergency evacuation, and to allow firefighters better ingress access to fight fires. The project will also provide a break in fuel continuity to aid in reducing the spread of fire. Selected roads have been chosen based on the confluence of higher density residential neighborhoods with the wildland interface. All work will be performed within the County's existing right-of-way in 2021 and 2022.

Using hand and mechanical means, vegetation treatment will consist of a combination of pulling, cutting, trimming, mowing, and spraying. All trees to remain within the work area, regardless of size, will be limbed to a height of 15 feet or more above ground level. Downed vegetation will be removed from the clearing sites within 5 days of cutting. Sweeping will be done at the end of each day to remove any loose material from roadways, driveways, ditches and gutters. All disturbed soils will be covered with approved erosion control measures. The County also has a public outreach plan in place to inform the public of this work, as well as advance notice for neighborhoods and roads where work will occur.

The Public Works Department has reviewed the project for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has identified the project as being Categorically Exempt under California Code of Regulations Sections 15301(c), Repair and maintenance of existing streets; 15301(h), Maintenance of existing landscaping and native growth; and 15304(i), Minor alterations to land. A Notice of Exemption has been prepared for the project as shown in Exhibit A and, upon approval by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, will be filed with the Nevada County Clerk's Office.

Item Initiated by: Jessica Hankins, Public Works Project Manager
Item Approved by: Trisha Tillotson, Director of Public Works

Submittal Date: December 15, 2020
Revision Date: December 23, 2020