



Information and General Services Department

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: December 6, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

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

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the agreement between the County of Nevada and Fire Safe Council of Nevada County relating to wildfire prevention services in the amount of \$55,000 for FY 2021/22 and FY 2022/23 and amending the FY 22/23 Forest Reserves Budget (4/5 affirmative vote)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution

FUNDING: The disbursement will come from the Forest Reserves FY 2022/23 budget. Funding was received from the Secure Rural Schools Act in FY 21/22 and FY 22/23. The current adopted FY 22/23 budget is for \$27,500. A budget amendment has been included for approval to increase the FY 22/23 budget by \$27,500 to facilitate the contract total of \$55,000.

BACKGROUND: The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS Act), was enacted to provide five years of transitional assistance to rural counties affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands. SRS funding continued to be extended in subsequent years and has currently been funded through FY 2021-22 but at diminishing levels with significant restrictions. Current funds are from federal FY 2020 and FY 2021, with payments corresponding to the County for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22. Funds are limited to carrying out the Firewise Communities program and reimbursement of County Search and Rescue efforts on National Forest lands.

To date, the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County has helped 73 communities attain and maintain certification as Firewise Communities. With funding from the Forest Reserve Title III funds, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County proposes to recertify 15 existing Firewise Communities and certify 30 communities currently on the waitlist.

In order to appropriate these funds, the Act required that the Nevada County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approve a spending plan and hold a 45-day public comment period. This public comment period was conducted, and the spending plan was approved at the January 11, 2022, Board of Supervisors Meeting by Resolution 22-048.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Craig Griesbach