



**COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: August 10, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Brian Foss, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the Request for Proposals (RFP) and award selection procedures for a “Pines to Mines Environmental Assessment” contract, authorizing the Purchasing Division to advertise for qualified proposals and Directing the Auditor-Controller to increase the Economic Development Budget by \$100,000.00 in fiscal year 21-22 (4/5th Affirmative Vote Required)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Resolution.

FUNDING: The approval of the Request for Proposals (RFP) has no dollar impact. The resolution requests a budget amendment for the Pines to Mines Environmental Assessment which will be funded with a \$100,000.00 allocation from the Economic Development Infrastructure assignment of the General Fund. Once the RFP selection process is complete, we will return to the Board with a recommendation to award and enter into a contract.

BACKGROUND: During the Summer of 2015, former District V Supervisor, Richard Anderson spearheaded an east-west county trails connection initiative leading to a series of stakeholder meetings. It was clear during those meetings that there was a passion among the groups to create a monumental trail across Nevada County.

The group hired a consultant to develop a route open to non-motorized methods of travel compatible with a rugged backcountry trail experience such as hiking, running, mountain biking, and horseback riding. This proposed route includes existing trails which will be integrated into the Pines to Mines trail. When completed, the trail will cover over 80 miles, utilizing the highly popular Trout Creek Canyon, Donner Lake Rim, Hole In The Ground, Spaulding Lake, and Pioneer Trails, among others. Approximately 18-22 miles of new construction on Tahoe National Forest (TNF) land will be required to link these trails into one cohesive whole encompassing the best the County has to offer in the way of sweeping valley



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vistas and the Sierra Crest, mature mixed conifer forest, historic towns and high quality recreation.

In response to an increasing interest by the Board of Supervisors in Open Space, Trails and Recreation staff from the Nevada County Executive Office joined the group of non-profit organizations in the Summer of 2019 providing coordination and project management assistance.

Then in January 2020 and 2021 the Board of Supervisors during their Board Workshop discussed funding the Pines to Mines Environmental Assessment in the amount of \$100,000 as part of their Economic Development planning.

Throughout the past year the Pines to Mines group has worked with the TNF to prepare for the completion of the required NEPA Environmental Assessment as the yet-to-be-built trail is entirely on TNF land and under TNF authority. During these discussions the TNF asked for input from the group on the subject of including class 1 ebikes in the study's Scope of Work. The group then discussed the issue during several meetings and submitted their positions on the matter to the TNF in writing. After reviewing the groups input the TNF set the following scope and is prepared to contract with a provider to complete the study:

Pines to Mines Scope of Work: The Provider will enter into an agreement with the Tahoe National Forest and under the Forest Service's guidance the Provider, or their subcontractor, will analyze and document the potential environmental effects of the proposal to construct a new 18-22 mile trail section as part of the Pines To Mines Trail connecting Truckee and Nevada City, CA. The new trail would connect the 'Hole In The Ground Trail' to the 'Grouse Ridge Trail' in the Tahoe National Forest (TNF). The analysis will also include the proposal to designate Class 1 ebike use on the network of trails, or portions of trails, that would constitute the Pines to Mines Trail (Pioneer Trail, Spaulding Lake Trail, Grouse Ridge Trail, the yet-to-be-built trail section, Hole-in-the-Ground Trail, Donner Lake Rim Trail). The analysis will be documented in an Environmental Assessment (EA), complete the following NEPA and USFS regulations and policies, and will contain all steps/sections required by NEPA (from Scoping through Final Decision Notice), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, and other applicable federal, state, and local regulations, policies, and guidelines.

Additionally, any and all technical studies will need to include analysis to meet California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines included in Appendix G. Additional technical studies will also be required to meet all CEQA requirements for completion of the checklist outlined in Appendix G of CEQA in order to be used for a potential future CEQA Initial Study.

Program Summary (from RFP):



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Nevada County is inviting proposals from qualified firms to provide project management for completion of a NEPA Environmental Assessment for the Pines to Mines proposed new trail section in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Nevada County seeks a qualified Provider with past experience working with the TNF, expertise, and qualifications to complete the NEPA Environmental Assessment meeting the Tahoe National Forest requirements as outlined in the attached Non-Funded Challenge Cost Share Agreement.

The County is seeking only proposals from firms with past experience working with the TNF and who can complete the RFA schedule of services with a budget at or less than \$100,000.00 including reimbursables.

This RFP will result in the award of one contract to be effective for an initial term of approximately two (2) years, with an option to renew the contract for two additional one-year periods, at the County's discretion.

An evaluation panel comprised of 5 people, representing County staff and members of the community, will review and score responses to select the top ranked entity based on the evaluation criteria published in the RFP. The evaluation panel is advisory to the County Executive Officer, Alison Lehman, who will negotiate, develop and execute the final contract on behalf of the Board of Supervisors.

Recommended action:

Therefore, staff recommends the Board:

- 1) Approve the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the "Pines to Mines Environmental Assessment" award selection procedures in substantially the same form as attached to the resolution and give authority to the County Executive Officer to make any amendments or additions as are necessary to comply with all laws and guidelines; and
- 2) Authorize the Purchasing Division to advertise for proposals from the qualified entities, and authorize the formation of an evaluation committee as outlined in the RFP to review the responsive proposals, score each proposal per the criteria described in the RFP, and make recommendations to the County Executive Officer who will develop and bring back the final recommendation to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors for approval.
- 3) Direct the Auditor-Controller to release \$100,000 from the Economic Development Assignment in the General Fund Fund Balance and increase the Economic Development Budget by \$100,000.00 in fiscal year 21-22.

Item Initiated by: Josh White, Administrative Analyst I
Approved by: Brian Foss, Planning Director