



NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: September 23, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Alex Keeble-Toll – Office of Emergency Services

SUBJECT: Resolution accepting the USDA, United States Forest Service (USFS), Tahoe National Forest Federal Financial Assistance Award of Cooperative Agreement 25-CA-11051700-023 for the Nevada City and County Deer Creek Fuels Project in the amount of \$522,080.00 during the period August 28, 2025 through August 27, 2030, ratifying the execution of the Agreement dated August 28, 2025, and authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute all additional documents required to fulfill the requirements of the Agreement on behalf of the County of Nevada.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The \$522,080.00 funds will be received in the Office of Emergency Services budget. This funding includes salary and benefits for an OES Administrative Analyst to lead grant and contract management activities in the amount of \$7,752. Funds also include indirect charges on MTDC at the de minimis rate (15%) for a total of \$16,902.00. This cooperative agreement does not require matching funds.

BACKGROUND:

Nevada County responded to a direct request by the USFS Tahoe National Forest for a shovel-ready project to benefit the wildland-urban interface (WUI) under the Region 5 non-federal lands Project Solicitation for FY25. As a result of ongoing conversations with the City of Nevada City around opportunities to collaborate on high-priority, mutually beneficial projects, it was determined that 197 acres of the City's Deer Creek Southside Project represented the best option to put forward for funding.

The County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services request for FY25 funds was approved as a Region 5 non-federal lands project, and the County of Nevada subsequently submitted an Award Packet to USDA, United States Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest, the administrating agency of these funds. This funding opportunity was not associated with a formal request for proposals and there was no published timeline for proposal submission or award. As such, these funds are being brought to the Board for retroactive acceptance.

The *Nevada City and County Deer Creek Fuels Project* is located on the south side of Deer Creek in the southwest portion of Nevada City, a Gold Rush-era town designated as one of California's 14 Cultural Districts. In the *2025 Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update* the Deer Creek Canyon was identified as one of the most hazardous areas in Nevada County (based on climate, topography, and fuel) and Nevada City was identified by local stakeholders as a High Value Resource and Asset at Risk (HVRA) that should be protected from the potential impact(s) of wildfire. In addition to providing protection to City of Nevada City, the *Project* is adjacent to both an elementary school and a middle school, the St. Canice Cultural Center, Nevada City's wastewater treatment plan, and other critical infrastructure.

Planning and environmental permitting for this project was led by the City of Nevada City and funded via a state agency grant awarded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC#1517). The City completed planning and filed a Notice of Exemption on August 28, 2024 for this effort (File# 20240000035). Implementation will consist of new (first entry) fuels reduction activities (mastication) on private property. More than 95% of the funds awarded will be used for on-the-ground fuels mitigation. The remaining funds will support County of Nevada Salaries and Benefits to administer the project and the development of outreach materials to increase community engagement and education about the project and the importance of forest health and fuel mitigation activities.

Item Initiated by: Alex Keeble-Toll, Director of Emergency Services

Approved by: Alex Keeble-Toll, Director of Emergency Services