



## **RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

### **OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING CONTRACT BETWEEN CAL FIRE AND THE COUNTY OF NEVADA FOR THE PONDEROSA WEST GRASS VALLEY DEFENSE ZONE PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000, FOR THE TERM OF JULY 9, 2019 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020, AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT, AND AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2019/20 OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES BUDGET (4/5 AFFIRMATIVE VOTE REQUIRED)**

WHEREAS, California experienced the most destructive wildfire season in State history in 2018, enduring over 7,600 wildfires that burned 1,846,445 acres in total; and

WHEREAS, the reality of climate change - persistent drought, warmer temperatures, and more severe winds - has created conditions that will lead to more frequent and destructive wildfires; and

WHEREAS, California arrived at our present emergency condition through the combined factors of fire exclusion, forest management policies that created overgrown and overcrowded forests, a rapidly changing climate, and a historic drought with accompanying bark beetle epidemics; and

WHEREAS, fuels reduction, which encompasses a range of forest management activities, including thinning, treating surface fuels with prescribed fire, mechanical methods, manual methods, and grazing, can reduce potential fire intensity; and

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order N-05-19 on January 8, 2019 to direct CAL FIRE, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to issue a 45-day Community Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation Report; and

WHEREAS, CAL FIRE (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection), published its Community Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation Report on March 22, 2019, which included the County of Nevada's Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Project as one of thirty-five priority projects to protect vulnerable Nevada County communities in furtherance of long-term wildfire prevention and forest health throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2019 Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California due to a vast-tree die-off throughout the state, which increased the risk of wildfires; and

WHEREAS, Governor Gavin Newsom's March 22, 2019, Proclamation of a State Emergency, suspended the Division 13 Environmental Quality provisions (commencing with section 21000) of the California Public Resources Code, and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division, to the extent that they apply to the priority fuels reduction projects; and

WHEREAS, a Priority A of the County of Nevada Board of Supervisors is to: Reduce the risk of local wildfire and the effects of wildfire on life, property and the environment by providing leadership and support to community partners, pursuing State and Federal funding, implementing county policies and programs, and assisting the public to be "wildfire ready."; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Emergency Services is responsible for preparing and mitigating wildfire hazards in the County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Nevada has a severe and present danger of wildfire presenting a threat to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Project area consists of approximately 1,200 acres located just below Rough and Ready Highway and above McCourtney Road ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, the most recent Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan ranks this Ponderosa West Project as the highest priority hazardous fuel reduction plan for Western Nevada County; and

WHEREAS, CAL FIRE has awarded a \$1,000,000 grant to the County to implement a fuel management defense zone in a high-risk region adjacent to the City of Grass Valley and other communities in or near the Project area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada, State of California, approves the contract between the County of Nevada and Cal Fire in the amount of \$1,000,000 for a term of July 9, 2019 through December 31, 2020 for the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Project, authorizes the Director or Emergency Services to execute the contract and directs the Auditor Controller to amend the budget as follows:

Increase	
0101-20702-414-1000/445200	\$1,000,000
0101-20702-414-1000/522090	\$1,000,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Nevada County Board of Supervisors finds and determines that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the Governor's March 22, 2019, Proclamation of a State Emergency, suspending Division 13 Environmental Quality provisions (commencing with section 21000) of the California Public Resources Code, and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division, because the County will include environmental protections incorporated by CAL FIRE for the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Project, and through the implementation of those protections to public health and the environment applied to the Project by the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency to ensure the environment will be adequately protected.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Nevada County Board of Supervisors authorizes the Director of Emergency Services to file a Notice of Exemption with the Nevada County Clerk's Office for the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Project.