



RESOLUTION No. _____

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE FOR THE PONDEROSA WEST GRASS VALLEY DEFENSE ZONE PHASE 1 MAINTENANCE AND PHASE 2 PROJECTS THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA VEGETATION TREATMENT PROGRAM (CALVTP) PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (PEIR), AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES TO SIGN AND FILE THE NOTICE OF DETERMINATION (NOD) FOR THESE PROJECTS WITH THE NEVADA COUNTY CLERK RECORDER'S OFFICE.

WHEREAS, Nevada County faces a severe and present threat from wildfire; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Emergency Services has applied for and was awarded funding from the USDA Forest Service to conduct hazardous fuels reduction activities to mitigate this threat in the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone project area (Res. 23-534 + Res. 22-519); and

WHEREAS, the planning phases of the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Phase 1 Maintenance and Phase 2 are nearing completion; and

WHEREAS, environmental compliance with state and federal laws for these projects must be achieved before they can move into the implementation phase; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection developed the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CALVTP) to provide local and state agencies with powerful California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance tools, including a Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) checklist and Addendum to the Program EIR (PSA/Addendum) to expedite wildfire resilience projects; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection certified a Program Environmental Impact Report (Program EIR) for the CalVTP in December 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Program EIR evaluated the potential environmental effects of implementing vegetation treatments throughout the State Responsibility Area (SRA) and portions of the adjacent Local Responsibility Area (LRA) in California; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Emergency Services has contracted with environmental consulting firms (Res. 24-043) to achieve environmental compliance through utilization of the CALVTP PSA/Addendum process in accordance with CEQA; and

WHEREAS, the firm Panorama has reviewed and completed the required documents under the CALVTP PSA checklist, which includes the criteria to support an Addendum to the CalVTP Program EIR; and

WHEREAS, an Addendum to an EIR is appropriate where a previously certified EIR has been prepared and some changes or revisions to the project are proposed, or the circumstances surrounding the project have changed, but none of the changes or revisions would result in new or substantially more severe significant environmental impacts, consistent with CEQA Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162, 15163, 15164, and 15168; and

WHEREAS, in this project, there are no changed circumstances, but the proposed revision or change in the project, compared to the Program EIR, is the inclusion of areas outside of and adjacent to the CalVTP treatable landscape and revisions to standard project requirements, which are integrated into the Program itself; and

WHEREAS, and the Nevada County Planning Department has reviewed the project and found it will be implemented in accordance with the mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP), pursuant to Section 15097(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines; and

WHEREAS; in accordance with CEQA requirements, a Notice of Determination must be filed with the Nevada County Clerk Recorder's office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Nevada County Board of Supervisors

1. Finds and determines that the above recitals are true and correct.
2. Adopts the PSA/Addendum to the CalVTP Program EIR attached hereto as Exhibit A.
3. Authorizes environmental clearance for the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Phase 1 Maintenance and Phase 2 projects through the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CALVTP) Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).
4. Directs the Director of Emergency Services to sign and file a Notice of Determination with the Nevada County Clerk-Recorder and the California State Clearinghouse within five (5) days from the date of this action.