



**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo**

MEETING DATE: August 20, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Craig Griesbach – Director of Emergency Services

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the contract between Sierra Streams Institute and the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services for the Nature-Based Mitigation and Wildfire Retrofitting for Climate Resiliency: Forest Health and Fire Risk Curriculum for 3rd-5th Graders (BRIC21-AP01251) in the amount of \$41,936.00 with a required match of \$17,973.00 for use during the period August 20, 2024 through January 15, 2027, authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute the contract and directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the fiscal year 2024/25 Emergency Services budget (4/5 Affirmative Vote Required).

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: FEMA/BRIC awarded the Office of Emergency Services \$998,971.91 (Federal Share) and \$51,494.30 (Phase 1 Management Costs) in funding. The BRIC grant (BRIC21-AP01251) has previously been brought to the Board for acceptance (Res.24-233). OES will contract with Sierra Streams Institute for an amount not to exceed \$41,936.00. Sierra Streams Institute will provide 30% match (\$17,973.00) for a total project budget of \$59,909.00. A budget amendment has been included for approval to increase the fiscal year 2024/25 Office of Emergency Services budget by \$41,936.00.

BACKGROUND: The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program makes federal funds available to states, U.S. territories, federally recognized tribal governments, and local communities for hazard mitigation activities. The BRIC grant program seeks to categorically shift the federal focus from reactive disaster spending toward research-supported, proactive investment in community resilience so that when disasters such as wildfire come communities are better prepared.

The County of Nevada has a severe and present danger from wildfire. The Nature Based

Mitigation and Wildfire Retrofitting for Climate Resiliency Phase 1 Project addresses wildfire mitigation at the individual, community, and landscape scale. The Phase 1 Project will consist of community engagement (outreach, securing right of entry), planning (shaded fuel break treatment design, defensible space assessments, and home hardening assessments), environmental compliance (wildlife, botanical, cultural surveys; CEQA/NEPA), and education (both youth and community).

For the youth education component of the BRIC21-AP01251 project, Sierra Streams Institute was identified in the grant proposal to lead the “Forest Health and Fire Risk Curriculum for 3rd-5th Graders.” This will involve expanding roll-out of their established “Our Forests” curriculum and teacher support program to up to 10 total classes and up to three new schools within the overall BRIC Project area (Woodpecker Ravine).

Specifically, Sierra Streams Institute will be (1) identifying and establishing partnerships with new schools, (2) conducting stakeholder trainings and establishing target plot locations, and (3) conducting “forest investigations” including forest inventory data collection and field learning exercises.

Funding for this effort is included in the Phase 1 grant award from FEMA/BRIC (BRIC21-AP01251). FEMA will pay for 70% of costs (\$41,936.00) and Sierra Streams Institute will provide 30% match (\$17,973.00) for a total project budget of \$59,909.00.

Item Initiated by: Alex Keeble-Toll, Senior Administrative Analyst

Approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director of Emergency Services