



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

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

**RESOLUTION APPROVING SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING TO THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S (FEMA) BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES PROGRAM TO FUND THE *BRIC 2021 NATURE-BASED MITIGATION & WILDFIRE RETROFITTING FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCY IN NEVADA COUNTY* PROJECT, FOR HAZARD MITIGATION FUNDING TOTALING \$22.3 MILLION DOLLARS AND AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OR THEIR DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THIS APPLICATION AND OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors priority is to lead the community in all hazards planning, preparedness, response, and recovery with a focus on wildfire; and

WHEREAS, California is facing a growing forest and wildfire crisis. Decades of fire suppression, coupled with the increasing impacts of climate change, have dramatically increased wildfires size and intensity throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 fire season broke numerous records. Five of California's six largest fires in modern history burned at the same time, destroying thousands of buildings, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes, and exposing millions of residents to dangerously unhealthy air. More than 4 million acres burned across the state, double the previous record; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's 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; and

WHEREAS, it does so with a recognition of the growing hazards associated with climate change, and of the need for natural hazard risk mitigation activities that promote climate adaptation and resilience with respect to those hazards; and

WHEREAS, the BRIC grant program seeks to categorically shift the federal focus from reactive disaster spending toward research-supported, proactive investment in community resilience so when the hurricane, flood or wildfire comes, communities are better prepared; and

WHEREAS, the County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services (OES) has coordinated with the CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit to identify a high priority fuel reduction project called the Woodpecker Ravine Fuel Modification Zone within their Unit Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the project area surrounding Grass Valley is selected due to high fire severity risk, population and home density, critical infrastructure, and the opportunity to benefit a low-income area; and

WHEREAS, the Woodpecker Ravine Fuel Modification Zone, the project's primary hazardous fuel reduction strategy, will provide necessary vegetation management for fire agencies to defend against fires that may threaten the communities of Alta Sierra, Cedar Ridge, Ophir Hill, Chicago Park, Peardale, Lower Colfax, You Bet, Greenhorn and Empire Mine; and

WHEREAS, to encourage property owners to create and maintain defensible space and to harden their homes to reduce the potential for ignition from embers, direct flame, or radiant heat, multiple strategies have been proposed to accomplish this goal; and

WHEREAS, defensible space inspections, structure hardening assessments, educational outreach in conjunction with partner agencies, no-cost green waste disposal, and cost-share incentives for property owners to complete defensible space and harden structures have all been identified as activities to be funded by the *BRIC 2021 Nature-based Mitigation & Wildfire Retrofitting for Climate Resiliency in Nevada County*; and

WHEREAS, the cost-share for this program is written as a 70% federal share with a 30% local match. Approximately \$3.8 million will be needed in local cost-share to leverage approximately \$22.3 million in federal funding. The non-federal cost-share may consist of cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof. A portion of cost-share will come from homeowner share of costs for home hardening and defensible space implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's \$1.5 billion wildfire and forests resilience package includes investments for activities included in the grant proposal. OES will seek these funds with the goal of securing the full match over the course of the project; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of the grant may be contingent on securing local match from State grant fund opportunities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada, State of California, hereby

1. Approves the submittal of an application for grant funding to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program for the BRIC 2021 Nature-based Mitigation & Wildfire Retrofitting for Climate Resiliency in Nevada County project totaling \$22.3 million dollars to complete the Woodpecker Ravine Fuel Modification Zone, as well as provide defensible space and home hardening incentives to residents, community education, and no-cost green waste disposal opportunities is approved; and
2. Approves that the County Information Officer or their designee is authorized to execute for and on behalf of the County of Nevada, a public entity established under the laws of the State of California, any actions necessary for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance provided by the federal Department of Homeland Security and sub-granted through the State of California. The acceptance of all Grants will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval per County policy.