



COUNTY OF NEVADA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD AGENDA MEMO

MEETING DATE: August 22, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County Executive Officer, or their designee to submit a grant application to the Regional Resilience Grant Program, for funding of up to \$650,000.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: No match is required if the grant is awarded, but funding is per reimbursement. Staff will bring forward a budget amendment for consideration if the grant is awarded along with the approval of acceptance of grant funds. No general fund is required. Anticipated award period is 30 months beginning in January 2024 and ending June 2026.

BACKGROUND: In February 2023, Nevada County's Board of Supervisors adopted 2023 Priority Objectives that included Resolution No. SR 23-0127. This established the new objective of Climate Resilience to "Safeguard Nevada County's economic durability, environmental integrity, and public health and safety by preparing for, adapting to, and mitigating changing climate conditions in a way that reflects our rural quality of life."

As outlined in the 2023 Board Workshop, the Climate Resilience objective includes:

1. Protect and harden critical infrastructure.
2. Enhance carbon sequestration on natural and working lands.
3. Enhance collaboration to increase community capacity and achieve climate resilience goals.
4. Pursue funding and advocacy opportunities.
5. Align strategies in a coordinated plan.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research, through Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) administers the Regional Resilience Grant Program (RRGP) and received funds to implement the program through the provision of grants and staff support. RRGp provides grant resources to

1. Support regional projects aligned with ICARP priorities, improve regional climate
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resilience, and reduce climate risks from wildfire, sea level rise, drought, flood, increasing temperatures, and extreme heat events.

2. Address the greatest climate risks in the region, particularly in the most vulnerable communities.
3. Fill the gaps in climate resilience funding and support sustainable and cohesive climate resilient projects through regional collaboration.
4. Support equitable outcomes.

In 2021, the Town of Truckee, along with the Truckee Tahoe Airport District and the Truckee Donner Public Utility District, partnered with Sierra Business Council (SBC) to develop the Climate Transformation Alliance (CTA). CTA is a public-private partnership with the goal of reaching carbon neutrality in the Truckee Tahoe region by 2045. CTA partners, including Nevada County representatives, meet quarterly to discuss opportunities to implement projects. Nevada County is seeking to partner with the governing members of the CTA in a joint grant application to the RRPg to achieve five key objectives. Sierra Business Council will be contracted to convene on the following implementation objectives:

1. Convene a climate collaborative in western Nevada County informed by the CTA model and developing goals appropriate for Western Nevada County.
2. Further development of Nevada County Climate Action plan, including updating existing applicable County plans and studies (e.g. Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Energy Action Plan).
3. Coalesce regional plans to construct a unified strategy and process for moving forward.
4. Increase participation in eastern-county CTA from disinvested communities.
5. Fund CTA programmatic work (i.e. adopt mitigation measures for existing buildings, and host community events that result in the implementation of climate adaptation and mitigation projects).

Staff is requesting the Board to authorize the County Executive Officer, or their designee to apply for up to \$650,000 from the Regional Resilience Grant Program. If awarded, the County would serve as the lead applicant as well as the grant fiscal administrator. Staff anticipates contracting with Sierra Business Council for the implementation of the grant. The application deadline is August 29, 2023. A blank copy of the application narrative questions, application instructions, application workbook (including budget template), and guidelines are included in this packet.

This planning grant will directly advance the County's Climate Resilience objective and initiatives to a) pursue funding and advocacy opportunities, b) align strategies in a coordinated plan, and c) enhance collaboration to increase community capacity and achieve climate resilience goals. By building and expanding public-private climate coalitions in western and eastern Nevada County, strategies that are suited for the varying elevations, biodiversity, climate hazards, and vulnerable populations will have a pathway for coordinated implementation.

If selected for an award, the grant and amended budget will be brought back to the Board of Supervisors for approval to accept the award and execute related contract(s).

Item Initiated: Amy Cobden, Administrative Analyst II
Approved: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer

Submittal Date: August 7, 2023