



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

MEETING DATE: February 11, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Alex Keeble-Toll – Interim Director, Emergency Services**

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services to submit a grant application to the Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program in an amount not to exceed \$10 million with in-kind Firewise Community match in the amount of \$2.5 million and authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute all additional documents required to fulfill the requirements of the grant on behalf of the County of Nevada.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: If awarded, the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) funds will be received into the Office of Emergency Services budget. The CDWG grant request shall include staff time for OES grant administration, project management, and treatment design. The indirect cost rate of 15% will apply. A budget amendment is not required currently and there is no additional impact on the General Fund.

BACKGROUND: The Office of Emergency Services (OES) recently completed the 2025 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Update which serves as a framework and wildfire mitigation roadmap to identify and prioritize future wildfire protection projects.

OES intends to immediately make the County-wide CWPP actionable by seeking funding for key projects that align with project priority areas. The USDA Forest Service State, Private, and Tribal Forestry Fiscal Year 2025 Community Wildfire Defense Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity aims to assist at-risk local communities with planning for and mitigating against the risk created by wildfire. This opportunity requires that project proposals advance objectives and priorities identified in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that is not more than 10 years old.

The Office of Emergency Services is uniquely positioned to put forward a project identified as a priority in the 2025 Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update under the CWDG opportunity. The vicinity of the You Bet Firewise Community, which begins at Highway 174 in the west and spreads east and northeast between the Bear River, Steepshollow Creek, and Greenhorn Creek is highlighted in the CWPP as being high or

very high priority for fuel management projects. OES worked with local non-profit Sierra Streams Institute and the You Bet Firewise Community to scope the project proposed for the CWDG opportunity.

The targeted planning and implementation footprint of the project is approximately 1,500 acres of private lands, with the potential to treat more as budget allows. The project will leverage a unique model of community-based forestry currently being implemented under the 625-acre Sierra Foothill Forest Climate Resilience Project (funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board). This model incorporates significant feedback from the landowners with the goal of implementing treatments that foster forest resilience, safeguard community infrastructure, support climate adaptation, and protect wildlife habitat.

If awarded, acceptance of this grant will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval per County Policy.

Item Initiated by: AJ Zekanoski, Administrative Analyst I, OES

Approved by: Alex Keeble-Toll, Interim Director, Emergency Services