



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

MEETING DATE: October 24, 2023
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: **Craig Griesbach – Emergency Services**

SUBJECT: Resolution accepting the Wildlife Conservation Board grant for the Sierra Foothill Forest Climate Resilience Project (WC-2340KM) in the amount of \$2,396,000 for use during the period October 3, 2023 through March 31, 2027, ratifying the grant agreement dated October 3, 2023, and authorizing the Director of Office 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 Resolution

FUNDING: The \$2,396,000 grant funds will be received in the Office of Emergency Services budget. These funds include \$12,269.26 for Office of Emergency Services staff time to manage the grant and the project and funding for Indirect costs at 15% (\$284,100). A budget amendment will be included in a future resolution.

BACKGROUND: The County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services (OES) submitted a grant proposal to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) in partnership with local non-profit Sierra Streams Institute for the Sierra Foothill Forest Climate Resilience Project (SFFCRP), formerly referenced as the Jones Bar Forest Resilience Project, on February 15, 2023. Retroactive permission to apply for this grant was brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval on March 14, 2023 (No. 23-114). The Wildlife Conservation Board brought forward a recommendation to fund this project at their Board of Directors meeting on August 24, 2023.

The SFFCRP will improve forest health and reduce catastrophic wildfire risk using climate-smart management practices across multiple private and Federal parcels in Nevada City, California. The project area consists of a Firewise Community (Jones Bar), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, and three Outdoor Schools – each positioned within a priority location in Nevada County: (1) Shady Creek (within the footprint of the proposed South Yuba Rim Shaded Fuel Break); (2) Nevada City School of the Arts (within the footprint of the Lobo Fire and also in the Deer Creek watershed); and (3) the Woolman School (in the Jones Fire footprint and within the South Yuba River watershed). These parcels are all located within a very high wildfire severity zone in the Sierra Nevada Foothills (CAL FIRE, 2022). This project is unique in its extensive incorporation

of data for treatment strategy development and through inclusion of educational outreach in the form of prescribed burn training, offering tours of treated sites, and student vegetation research plots.

Nevada County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is in a unique position to be able to increase the pace and scale of wildfire mitigation in Nevada County by leveraging a cooperative partnership with Sierra Streams Institute, a Nevada City-based nonprofit established in 1995. Sierra Streams Institute has successfully developed the planning phase of this project via a previously funded project (WCB ID #2020121). This grant will fund implementation of wildfire mitigation activities including prescribed burning, mastication, hand thinning and chipping, and herbicide application over 625 acres of land under multiple landownerships designated as either high wildfire risk or wildfire recovery zones. OES staff will administer the grant and support outreach and engagement activities including hosting project-specific “Virtual Office Hours,” coordinating project demonstrations, and attending Firewise Community Meetings.

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

Approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director of Emergency Services