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**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Board Agenda Memo**

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**MEETING DATE:** October 10, 2023

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Craig Griesbach – Office of Emergency Services

**SUBJECT:** Resolution Authorizing Environmental Clearance for the Direct Community Support Task of the CAL FIRE 5GA21159 Winter Storm Hazardous Vegetation Clean-Up Project

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** The Direct Community Support Task of the Winter Storm Hazardous Vegetation Clean-Up Project will be fully funded by the CAL FIRE Grant Agreement 5GA21159, approved by Resolution 23-230, within the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services Budget. There is no budget amendment needed and no further impact on the General Fund.

**BACKGROUND:** The Winter Storms of 2023 significantly increased the volume of hazardous vegetation along private and County-maintained roadways across Nevada County. This material needs to be removed to mitigate wildfire risk along critical evacuation routes, supporting safe ingress/egress during wildfire.

The Direct Community Support Task of the CAL FIRE-funded Winter Storm Hazardous Vegetation Clean-up Project will deploy funding to ensure that up to 38 miles of private roads and 30 miles of County-maintained roads identified as priorities by impacted communities are cleared of hazardous vegetation and debris that remains from the 2023 Winter Storms.

The Office of Emergency Services has reviewed the proposed activities for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act Statutes and Guidelines and has identified the activities as categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA per Section 15269(a).

Under Section 15269(a) projects to maintain, repair, or restore property damaged or destroyed as a result of disaster in a disaster-stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act are categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

A Notice of Exemption has been prepared for the project, and upon approval by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, will be filed with the Nevada County Clerk-Recorder's Office and the Office of Planning and Research (OPR).

The Winter Storm Hazardous Vegetation Clean-Up Project is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment—particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Cap-and-Trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across California. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at: [www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov](http://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov)

This resolution authorizes the Director of the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services to file a Notice of Exemption with the Nevada County Clerk-Recorder's Office and the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for the Direct Community Support Task of the 2023 Storm Debris Removal Project

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

**Approved by:** Craig Griesbach, Director, OES