



**COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

950 MAIDU AVENUE, SUITE 170, NEVADA CITY, CA 95959-8617
(530) 265-1222 ~ FAX (530) 478-5799 <http://nevadacountyca.gov>

Trisha Tillotson, Agency Director

Agricultural Commissioner

Building

Environmental Health

Farm Advisor

Planning

Public Works

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

MEETING DATE: September 13, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency Director

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing a grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$1,050,000

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the Community Development Agency Director to apply for a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

FUNDING: The County of Nevada was awarded \$1,050,000 in the federal FY22 budget for the North San Juan Fire Suppression System. This grant award requires a local match from the County of \$350,000, which will come from the General Fund (using Economic Development Infrastructure (EDI) assignment dollars).

Between the time that the application for federal funds was submitted to Congress in the spring of 2021 and the time the funds were awarded in the spring of 2022, the total project budget increased from \$1.4M (inflated from the original 2016 feasibility study to 2022 dollars) to \$2.6M, including planning and design expenses. The project now requires an additional \$1.2M in funding beyond the \$1.4M that will be covered by the USDA grant and our required local match. County staff are actively seeking potential sources of grant funding to cover that gap. EDI General Fund dollars that have been identified for this purpose will be used to cover any remaining funding gap.

In order to obtain the USDA grant funding, the County must now submit a non-competitive application to the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities program. The funding application requires signatures on numerous documents from an “authorized official” from the County, and this resolution authorizes the Community Development Agency Director to prepare and sign those documents, and submit any necessary reports or other information requested as part of the grant application.



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BACKGROUND:

For nearly a decade, County officials and community partners in North San Juan (NSJ) have sought to boost economic development in downtown NSJ. A primary obstacle to business development in NSJ is the lack of public water service and, therefore, the lack of fire suppression capability, a key requirement for new development. In 2016, the County secured federal funding to conduct an initial feasibility study on a fire suppression system in downtown NSJ, which generated an initial system design and budget. For several years, the project stalled due to lack of funds.

However, in the spring of 2021, Congress resurrected congressionally directed spending, which the County of Nevada saw as an opportunity to potentially secure funding for the fire suppression system. Because of the very short timeframe involved in the congressionally directed spending / appropriations process, there was no opportunity to bring a resolution to the board seeking approval to apply for this grant funding.

The County of Nevada applied for that funding and was successful in securing \$1,050,000 in federal funds through that process and has since advanced the project. In order to obtain the federal funds that Congress awarded, the County must submit a (non-competitive) funding application to the USDA, which requires numerous signatures from an “authorized official.” This resolution seeks to grant that authority to the Community Development Agency Director or her designee.

Once the application to the USDA has been approved, the Community Development Agency Director will return to the board with a resolution seeking approval to enter into the grant agreement and accept the funds.

Item Initiated by: Sarah Holyhead, Administrative Analyst II

Approved by: Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency Director

Submittal Date: August 29, 2022