



Information and General Services Department

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: March 14, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

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

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services to submit a grant application to the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Program for the Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Phase 2 Project in the total amount of \$3,914,536.64 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 attached Resolution.

FUNDING: If awarded the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Program funds in the amount of \$3,914,536.64 will be received in the Office of Emergency Services budget. These funds include \$149,422 to support Office of Emergency Services staff time to manage the grant and the project and indirect costs at 12% (\$419,415). There will be no County General Fund match requirement if awarded. A budget amendment is not required at this time and there is no additional impact on the General Fund.

BACKGROUND: The Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Phase 2 Project leverages and extends the Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Phase 1 Project by providing funds to treat an additional 726 acres, bringing the total acreage of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 Woodpecker Ravine Projects to 1,136 acres.

The Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break (Project) is a project identified as a top priority in the Nevada-Yuba-Placer (NEU) 2021 Strategic Plan. The fuel break is located within high and very high fire hazard severity zones just southeast of Grass Valley. The area is flanked by critical evacuation corridors – State Highway 49 to the east and State Highway 174 to the north. Roughly bounded by Rattlesnake, Lower Colfax, and Mount Olive Roads, the area has numerous homes located in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). This project will be a public private partnership between the landowners whose property will be treated, the County of Nevada, and CAL FIRE. The objective of the project is to remove hazardous vegetation along critical primary and secondary evacuation routes and strategic ridgelines in order to tie road system arteries into a wildfire defense

zone. The desired outcome is to reduce the intensity of a potential wildfire, provide fire fighters a stronghold to defend lives and homes, and provide safer ingress/egress routes for residents and emergency responders.

The Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Phase 1 Project was awarded funding by CAL FIRE in September 2022; these funds were accepted by the Board of Supervisors on September 27, 2022 (Resolution No. 22-520). The award amount was approximately half of the original grant application ask and by submitting a request for Phase 2 funding the Office of Emergency Services will be able to build the project out to the intended scope.

Both Phases of the Woodpecker Ravine Project are integral pieces of the BRIC 2021 Nature-Based Mitigation and Wildfire Retrofitting for Climate Resiliency in Nevada County Project, for which a proposal was submitted December 1, 2021 (SR 21-0847) and for which OES received notification of selection for further review on August 3, 2022. Specifically, a CAL FIRE grant for the Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Project was identified as a source of the required 25% local match for the BRIC project.

The Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Phase 1 and Phase 2 Projects have been scoped to be implemented independent of the BRIC funding, however – to the extent possible the timelines associated with the CAL FIRE funded projects (awarded and proposed) will be aligned with the (pending) BRIC award so that these funds will be eligible to serve as local match.

The Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Phase 2 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

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

Approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director, OES