



Information and General Services Department

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: July 9, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Steve Monaghan – IGS-Emergency Services**

SUBJECT: Resolution accepting a grant from Cal Fire in the amount of \$2,536,277 for the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Project and authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute grant agreement number 5GG18114

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution

FUNDING: The County of Nevada was awarded a grant for the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone (Project) in the amount of \$2,536,477. These funds were made available through the California Climate Investments (CCI) Fire Prevention Grant Program, CAL FIRE aims to reduce the risk of wildland fires to habitable structures and communities, while maximizing carbon sequestration in healthy wildland habitat and minimizing the uncontrolled release of emissions emitted by wildfires.

BACKGROUND: CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grants Program provides funding for local projects and activities that address the risk of wildfire and reduce wildfire potential to forested and forest adjacent communities. Funded activities include hazardous fuel reduction, fire planning, and fire prevention education with an emphasis on improving public health and safety while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In December 2018, Nevada County submitted the Project grant application to CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grant Program. The Project is the number one priority listed in Nevada County's most recent Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), a collaborative planning document developed by a cross-section of stakeholders in wildfire prevention. The primary goal of the CWPP is to protect human life, private property, essential infrastructure and natural resources.

On January 8, 2019, Governor Newsom implemented Executive Order N-05-19, requiring CAL FIRE to, inter alia, determine which communities in California are at the greatest

risk of wildfire, and directing CAL FIRE to issue a 45-day report with recommendations to prevent and mitigate wildfire to the greatest extent possible with an emphasis on environmental sustainability and public health. The CAL FIRE Community Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation Report, published on March 22, 2019, included 35 priority projects across the state which would immediately help reduce public safety risk in over 200 communities. Included in the list of priority projects was the County of Nevada's Project. On the same day, Governor Newsom Proclaimed a State of Emergency due to vast tree die off throughout the state, which has increased the risk of wildfires, and ordered that the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection immediately begin to implement the identified priority fuel reduction projects. The Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone ("Project") was identified as one of the 35 priority projects.

The grant funding is to be used to implement a shaded fuel management defense zone amongst homes and along roads, thinning trees, shrubs, brush and other vegetative growth within the Project area. Located just below Rough and Ready Highway and above McCourtney Road, this Project will offer vital protection to the densely populated communities of Lake Wildwood, Penn Valley and Rough and Ready to the west, as well as the historic City of Grass Valley to the east. In addition, critical vegetation management will be achieved for a main evacuation artery, Highway 20.

This resolution accepts the grant funds in the amount of \$2,536,477 for the identified Project to be completed by March 15, 2022.

Item Initiated by: Jenn Tamo

Approved by: Steve Monaghan