



**COUNTY OF NEVADA**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
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Trisha Tillotson  
Community Development Agency Director

Heba El-Guindy  
Director of Public Works

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

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**MEETING DATE:** August 8, 2023  
**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Heba El-Guindy, Director of Public Works  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution to ratify the contract for the Donner Pass Road  
Rockslide Project to Neil's Controlled Blasting L.P. for a total  
amount of \$428,664.50 – Districts 5

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** The Donner Pass Road Rockslide Project is being funded by the General Fund and staff will continue to look for alternate funding sources such as grants and emergency funds as they become available.

**BACKGROUND:** On June 9, 2023, a rock of approximately 40-50 tons dislodged from the roadside bank along Donner Pass Road and damaged the roadway, guardrail and retaining wall. Consequently, staff closed the road to secure public safety. Prior to removal of the fallen rock, staff hired NV5 Inc. and Blackburn Consulting (Geotechnical engineering consultants) to assess the area and ensure that it is safe to work. Preliminary analysis of the rock slope adjacent to the roadway indicated that the slope is unstable, and the road should remain closed until further analysis has been completed. Public Works staff has coordinated additional analysis of the rock slope including multiple site visits, aerial photographs and geologic analysis all showing there are fresh fracture marks in the rock face with some rocks in an unstable position. Staff coordinated with NV5 Inc, and Blackburn Consulting to prepare a request for proposals that would include preparation of a scaling plan and removal of unstable rocks. Subsequently, staff sent out a request for proposals to design the scaling plan and rock removal. The County received two qualified proposals, and a panel formed of County staff and external consultants deemed the proposal submitted by Neil's Controlled Blasting, L.P. to be the best fit for this emergency work.

In order to open Donner Pass Road and restore safety to the traveling public, rock removal is required. Public Works staff in coordination with our geotechnical experts have prepared the site for the rock scaling operations. Exact limits of the rock's removal will be determined as scaling progresses.

Due to the urgent/emergency nature of the work, impacts of the road closure on the adjacent community and arrival date of out-of-country contractor's team, staff issued the attached Contract to Neil's Controlled Blasting L.P. in the amount of \$389,695.00 (excluding a 10% contingency of \$38,969.50) on August 03, 2023. This Contract was signed by the Director of Information and General Services Agency under an emergency declaration.

Neil's Controlled Blasting L.P. began operations on August 7, 2023, with a currently anticipated completion date of August 25, 2023, pending volume of rock removal.

Additional future monitoring will be required outside of this Contract. If the additional monitoring reveals movement which deems the rocks unstable, future scaling may be required.

It is recommended that the attached Resolution be approved and the Contract between the County and Neil's Controlled Blasting L.P. in the amount of \$389,695.00, plus a 10% contingency of \$38,969.50 for a total of \$428,664.50 be ratified by the Board of Supervisors.

**Item Initiated by:** Patrick Perkins, Principal Civil Engineer  
**Approved by:** Heba El-Guindy, Director of Public Works

Attachments:

- Resolution to award the contract for the Donner Pass Road Rockslide Project to Neil's Controlled Blasting L.P. for a total amount of \$428,664.50 – Districts 5
- Standard Long Form Public Works Contract between Nevada County and Neil's Controlled Blasting L.P.