



Information and General Services Department

Office of Emergency Services

950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959
Phone: 530-265-1515
Fax: 530-265-7087

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: December 6, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

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

SUBJECT: Resolution retroactively authorizing the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services to submit a grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant Program in the total amount of \$214,666 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 Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant Program funds in the amount of \$214,666 will be received in the Office of Emergency Services budget. These funds will be used to satisfy the required 25% match associated with the FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program proposal for this project that was submitted on April 8, 2022. The project is a phased project; this Resolution applies to Phase 1 of the project. The total Phase 1 project cost is \$858,665. A budget amendment is not required at this time and there is no additional impact on the General Fund.

BACKGROUND: The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project was identified as a priority wildfire mitigation action by the CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer 2022 Strategic Plan. A suite of local partners including CAL FIRE Battalion 14, North San Juan Fire Protection District, 13 Firewise Communities, and local non-profit Yuba Watershed Institute have identified this project as a priority.

The purpose of this project is to conduct landscape-scale forest health treatment in order to reduce the unacceptable level of wildfire risk that the disadvantaged communities of North San Juan, Nevada City, Grass Valley, Penn Valley and Rough and Ready currently face. This project will complete the necessary planning for treatment of 800 acres of privately owned land that is nested within a 6,000-acre landscape-scale strategic planning area located on the San Juan Ridge. In sum, project implementation will result in a contiguous area of hazardous fuels reduction stretching along the north rim of the South Yuba River canyon from Bridgeport east for 16 miles to North Bloomfield. It will link together and

build upon completed actions on State, Federal, and private lands and protect over 44,000 residents, critical infrastructure, and the Wild and Scenic South Yuba River from the impacts of wildfire.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant Program includes creation of fuel breaks as an implementation project category. This grant opportunity is thus well aligned with the proposed project and furthermore, as the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a state agency, these funds can be used to satisfy the 25% local match that is a requirement of the FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program.

The planning phase of this project (Phase 1) will cost an estimated \$858,665 of which we are requesting \$214,666 from Sierra Nevada Conservancy to be leveraged against FEMA funds; the total project cost (Phase 1 and Phase 2) is estimated to be \$4.2 million.

The Office of Emergency Services submitted a Concept Proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant Program on July 29, 2022. Sierra Nevada Conservancy subsequently requested that a full proposal be submitted for consideration. The Office of Emergency Services requested and received approval from the CEO's Office to submit a full proposal on October 28, 2022. Sierra Nevada Conservancy anticipates notifying applicants of award status March 2023.

If awarded, acceptance of this grant will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval per County Policy.

Item Initiated by: Alex Keeble-Toll, Senior Administrative Analyst, OES
Approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director, OES