



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

MEETING DATE: May 28, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Craig Griesbach – Director of Emergency Services

SUBJECT: Resolution approving acceptance of the FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program Funds for the BRIC21-AP01251 Nature Based Mitigation and Wildfire Retrofitting for Climate Resiliency Phase 1 Project in the amount of \$988,971.91 (Federal Share) and \$51,494.30 (Phase 1 Management Costs) with a local match requirement of \$445,914.09 during the period March 22, 2024 through March 12, 2027, authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute the grant agreement and all additional documents to fulfill the requirements of the grant on behalf of County of Nevada.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The \$998,971.91 (Federal Share) and \$51,494.30 (Phase 1 Management Costs) will be received in the Office of Emergency Services budget. The required local match of \$445,914.09 will be provided by two CAL FIRE grants for Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Phase 1 (#5GG21227) and Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Phase 2 (#5GA22209). These CAL FIRE grants have previously been brought to the Board for acceptance (Res. 22-520 and Res. 23-533).

BACKGROUND: The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program makes federal funds available to states, U.S. territories, federally recognized tribal governments, and local communities for hazard mitigation activities. The BRIC grant program seeks to categorically shift the federal focus from reactive disaster spending toward research-supported, proactive investment in community resilience so that when disasters such as wildfire come communities are better prepared.

The County of Nevada has a severe and present danger from wildfire and the Woodpecker Ravine area was identified by CAL FIRE as a priority location for a project to mitigate the

wildfire risks to life, property, and the environment. The Nature Based Mitigation and Wildfire Retrofitting for Climate Resiliency Phase 1 Project addresses wildfire mitigation at the individual, community, and landscape scale. The Phase 1 Project will consist of community engagement (outreach, securing right of entry), planning (shaded fuel break treatment design, defensible space assessments, and home hardening assessments), environmental compliance (wildlife, botanical, cultural surveys; CEQA/NEPA), and education (both youth and community).

At the conclusion of Phase 2, the BRIC21 Project will result in 1,136 acres of shaded fuel break treatment along critical ingress/egress and key ridgelines; defensible space treatment for 1,200 parcels (via a landowner rebate program requiring a 30% landowner match); home hardening for 1,200 residences (via a homeowner rebate program requiring a 30% homeowner match); education for school-age children in partnership with Sierra Streams Institute; and community arts and education in partnership with South Yuba River Citizen's League.

The overarching goals for this project are as follows:

- To provide protection to County Identified lifelines that include safety and security, communication, transportation, and water.
- Encourage property owners to create and maintain defensible space and to harden their homes to reduce the potential for ignition from embers, direct flame, or radiant heat. We propose multiple strategies to accomplish this goal, such as defensible space inspections, structure hardening assessments, educational outreach in conjunction with partner agencies, no-cost green waste disposal, and cost-share incentives for property owners to complete defensible space and harden structures.
- Reduce vegetation in large-parcel sites and complete the Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break to provide buffers to decrease fire spread and intensity, provide anchor points, and increase ancillary environmental benefits such as forest health, water quality, etc.

The planning phase of this project (Phase 1) for which funding has been awarded through BRIC21 Phase 1 has a budget of \$1,040,466.20 with \$445,914.09 in match from two different CAL FIRE grants (Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Phase 1, #5GG21227 and Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Phase 2, #5GA22209). The implementation of this project (Phase 2) has a total budget of \$41,941,272. These funds are anticipated to be awarded by FEMA upon completion and review of Phase 1 deliverables.

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

Approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director of Emergency Services