



NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: June 25, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Craig Griesbach – Director of Emergency Services

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the contract between the Nevada County Resource Conservation District and the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services for the Livestock Fuel Reduction Program in the amount of \$150,000 for use during the period of June 25, 2024 through December 31, 2025, authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute the contract and directs the Auditor Controller to amend the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Emergency Services Budget. (4/5 Affirmative Vote Required)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The Nevada County Board of Supervisors, at its January 2023 Workshop, approved \$350,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for green waste and other wildfire mitigation projects. Budget was subsequently established on September 12, 2023 by Resolution 23-485. This contract is part of that project. A budget amendment is included to reflect reimbursement to the General Fund from the ARPA fund for the provision of general government services, and a corresponding increase in professional services in the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Office of Emergency Services General Fund budget.

BACKGROUND: Over 90% of Nevada County residents live within High and Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). Wildfire continues to be a primary threat to our community, and it is imperative that we support mitigating against this threat. The use of livestock as a tool for wildfire fuel mitigation efforts has been leveraged for decades in Nevada County. Local ranchers and the agricultural community continue this practice on a variety of lands throughout the county. The abundance of vegetation management that needs to be completed to make substantial strides in impacting the threat of wildfire cannot be understated. A diversified approach is necessary to get as much work done throughout our rural Nevada County landscape. Livestock is a sustainable resource that not only helps with our wildfire mitigation goals but also supports the local economy, climate resilience, workforce development, and land stewardship best practices.

The Nevada County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD) was founded in 1943 with a mission to promote reasonable natural resource management. The NCRCD is a state mandated Special District that provides technical assistance for fuels management, erosion control, pond management, invasive weed control, wildlife habitat improvement, pasture, orchard, and vineyard management, and rangeland management. The NCRCD maintains close relationships with the agricultural and farming

community including associated stakeholder organizations such as the Nevada County Farm Bureau. The NCRCDD is a natural partner to implement the Livestock Fuel Reduction Program.

This program has three primary strategic goals:

- Vegetation treatment on strategic school and publicly owned properties.
- Community education regarding livestock as a wildfire mitigation resource, youth engagement, climate resilience, and the many benefits of the agricultural industry.
- Supporting and enhancing the agricultural industry and workforce development.

The Office of Emergency Services (OES) will contract with NCRCDD to manage and execute this program. OES staff will manage the overall contract.

Item initiated and approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director of Emergency Services, OES