



**COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

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

MEETING DATE: September 27, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Brian Foss, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Resolution accepting the Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant in the amount of \$200,000 and executing SNC Agreement No. 1291-RT to fund the development of a Recreation and Resilience Master Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the resolution accepting the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Vibrant Recreation and Tourism grant in the amount of \$200,000 and executing SNC Agreement No. 1291-RT.

FUNDING: This resolution reflects the intent receive \$200,000 in grant funds for the preparation of a Recreation and Resilience Master Plan. Funding will be matched with up to \$250,000 from the County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation. These funds are budgeted in the FY 2022-2023 Recreation budget. No budget amendment is needed and there are no General Funds required.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Resolution
2. SNC Agreement No. 1291-RT
3. Resolution 22-064

BACKGROUND: Rural Nevada County enjoys an abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities. Residents and tourists are drawn to the natural beauty and rural quality of life, including access to rivers, lakes, trails, and open spaces. In recent years, the County has experienced a dramatic increase in people accessing these natural resources for recreation. Without appropriate infrastructure, this increased visitation strains local resources, creating environmental and safety issues at lakes, river crossings, and trails, and opportunities to realize economic benefits are missed.

In recognition of the connection between the economic resilience of our community, the health of ecosystems, and tourism and outdoor recreation, and the opportunity to support community health, safety, economy, environment, and resilience; the Board of Supervisors established the Nevada County

Open Space & Trails Subcommittee to provide oversight and coordination to further open space and trail planning and implement priority objectives.

An organizing plan is needed to coordinate and communicate a strategic vision of stakeholder priorities and provide an actionable road map to support health and safety, sustain economic benefits, and protect our environment. Nevada County Planning Department will be responsible for selecting, hiring, and overseeing a consultant to develop the Recreation and Resilience Master Plan “Master Plan”.

Developed with substantial community input, the Master Plan will articulate community recreation needs and priorities and identify strategies for developing and maintaining new and existing open spaces, trails, and other outdoor recreation amenities. The Master Plan will include a workplan and budget for priority projects and programs that enhance responsible use of trails and outdoor recreation resources, prioritize conservation, and leverage economic opportunity.

Strategic priorities for immediate action and long-term sustainable solutions include:

- Identify and implement effective strategies to promote sustainable recreation to protect and preserve natural resources
- Invest in open space and trails as part of a coordinated economic development strategy
- Deploy resources and personnel to ensure public safety and public health

The Master Plan and its associated process, will drive the following outcomes:

- Provide substantive opportunities for the community to participate in the planning process
- Articulate a shared vision for the functional, programmatic, and aesthetic characteristics of existing and future recreation amenities in Nevada County.
- Recommend a prioritized list of outdoor recreation projects, programs, and policies that can realize that vision.
- Quantify the cultural, environmental, economic, and ecological benefits of these prioritized projects, programs, and policies.
- Detail feasible solutions for financing, phasing, and maintaining community investments in recreation, open space, and trail resources with an emphasis on “shovel-ready” projects that maximize ARPA, State Budget, and Infrastructure opportunities to bring resources to the Sierra Nevada.

On January 22, 2022, The Board of Supervisors approved Resolution 22-064 to apply for the grant. These grant funds, together with ARPA funds will be used to retain a qualified consultant to develop the Recreation and Resilience Master Plan. The funds are required to be expended by January 1, 2027.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends the Board adopt the attached Resolution accepting the Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant in the amount of \$200,000 and executing SNC Agreement No. 1291-RT to fund the development of a Recreation and Resilience Master Plan.

Item Approved by: Brian Foss, Planning Director