



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

MEETING DATE: July 9, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Craig Griesbach – Director of Emergency Services

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) between the USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest and the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services for the Wildfire Resilient Communities and Landscapes Collaboration in the amount of \$301,000.00 with \$35,657.24 in USFS in-kind and \$10,107.92 in OES in-kind for the period July 9, 2024 through December 31, 2033, authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute the contract and directs the Auditor Controller to amend the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Emergency Services Budget (4/5 affirmative vote required).

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The Office of Emergency Services (OES) and USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest (TNF) are prepared to initiate Phase 1 of this agreement (Roadside Hazardous Fuels Reduction) for a Roadside Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project in the amount not to exceed \$301,000.00 with in-kind staff time from the organizations in the amount of \$45,765.16. The TNF share will be utilizing \$201,000.00 brought into this agreement via Truckee Meadows Water Authority; County of Nevada will be utilizing \$100,000.00 brought into this agreement via 2023 Board Workshop Priority Funds (approved \$350,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for green waste and other wildfire mitigation projects). The in-kind staff time support by TNF is in the amount of \$35,657.24 and in-kind staff time support by OES is in the amount of \$10,107.92. This Agreement includes indirect costs at the de minimis cost rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). A budget amendment has been included to reflect reimbursement to the General Fund from the ARPA fund for the provision of general government services, reimbursement from TNF, and a corresponding increase in professional services in the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Office of Emergency Services General Fund budget.

BACKGROUND: The County of Nevada has a severe and present danger from wildfire. More than half of Nevada County's 612,900 acres is USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest land (315,280 acres). The County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services (OES) and Tahoe National Forest (TNF) both have a vested interest in supporting wildfire resilient communities and landscapes in Nevada County.

For the last year, OES staff and staff of TNF and Truckee Ranger District have been working to craft an appropriate agreement mechanism to support increased collaboration around projects of mutual benefit with the goal of increasing the pace and scale of fuel mitigation and forest health projects on and to the benefit of federal (National Forest System) lands. A Good Neighbor Agreement was identified as the framework best-suited for these purposes.

The purpose of the Good Neighbor Agreement is to provide a framework and to document the cooperative effort between the parties for authorized forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services. This includes activities to treat insect and disease infected trees, activities to reduce hazardous fuels, and any other activities to restore or improve forest rangeland and watershed health. The duration of the agreement is ten years, with an expiration date of December 31, 2033. This instrument may be extended by a properly executed modification.

All projects proposed for completion under this Agreement will undergo a collaboration process to ensure that both parties understand the goals and objectives of the agreed upon restoration services and all necessary rules, regulations, and policies as outlined in this agreement.

OES and TNF have agreed upon a three phase Scope of Work for this agreement: (1) Roadside Hazardous Fuels Reduction, (2) Forest Health Project Development and Implementation, and (3) Vegetation Management and Project Maintenance. OES and TNF are prepared to initiate Phase 1 (Roadside Hazardous Fuels Reduction) utilizing \$201,000.00 brought into this agreement via Truckee Meadows Water Authority, \$100,000.00 brought into this agreement via County of Nevada (2023 Board Workshop Funds), and in-kind funding for staff-time contributed by both parties to implement 118 acres of roadside vegetation treatment in eastern Nevada County (Truckee Ranger District).

Additional statements of work identified in Phase 2 and Phase 3 of this Scope of Work may be added into the GNA via modification procedures which would be brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Future funding identified and secured in Phase 2 and Phase 3 of this Scope of Work would be brought to the Board of Supervisors for fund acceptance.

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

Approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director of Emergency Services