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**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Board Agenda Memo**

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**MEETING DATE:** May 23, 2023

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving the contract between the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County and the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services for the Winter Storm Green Waste Mitigation Project in the amount of \$125,000 for use during the period of May 23, 2023 through December 31, 2023, and authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute the contract

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the attached Resolution

**FUNDING:** The contract will be paid from the Office of Emergency Services (OES) FY 22/23 budget. \$30,000 is included in the FY 22/23 OES budget for Green Waste Expenditures and \$95,000 will be funded by CAL FIRE Grant 5GA21159 (Winter Storm Hazardous Vegetation Clean-Up Project). These two funding sources total the \$125,000 not to exceed contractual amount. A budget amendment is not needed at this time and there is no further impact on General Fund.

**BACKGROUND:** The Winter Storms of 2023 has significantly increased the volume of hazardous vegetation along roadways and around homes. Without resources to remove trees and other vegetation, the County of Nevada and individual communities with private roadways that were hard hit by snow and downed trees will be unable to clean-up private property and critical evacuation routes and will thus be without safe options for egress during wildfire. Furthermore, without access to expanded community green waste event programming, residents across the County will be without a viable means to remove and dispose of hazardous vegetation and storm debris.

In response to the increased need for vegetation management for private property and roadways, staff are collaborating with the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County to conduct free storm green waste drop off events between April and June of this year. The Fire Safe Council will be contracted to operate these events. This contract will shore up an existing CAL FIRE grant that was obtained by the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County due to the increased amount of vegetation from winter storms.

This contract will also provide additional direct resources to communities of greatest need that were impacted by winter storms. Additional resources may include ground sawyer work, preparation for pile burning, placing vegetation in green waste containers and/or for transportation, chipping, and/or mastication. Direct outreach will be completed to Firewise Communities, road associations, and community leaders to plan projects around these direct services. The variety of direct services accompanied with green waste drop off events will help the community recover and remove hazardous vegetation prior to fire season.

**Item Initiated and Approved by:** Craig Griesbach, Director of Emergency Services