



**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Board Agenda Memo**

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**MEETING DATE:** June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Alex Keeble-Toll – Director of Emergency Services

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving the adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Lower Deer Creek – Penn Valley Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project (FEMA HMGP DR-4683-1084-57) and directing the Director of Emergency Services to sign and file the Notice of Determination (NOD) for the project with the Nevada County Clerk Recorder’s Office.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** Not Applicable

**BACKGROUND:** The Lower Deer Creek — Penn Valley Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is adjacent to the Lake Wildwood community in Penn Valley, one of five communities identified in the 2024 Evacuation Study (File No. 24-0695) as the most evacuation-limited County-wide and within the 2025 Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan's Highest Project Priority Areas (Res. 25-064) In response to this threat, the Office of Emergency Services has applied for and received a grant award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to establish a shaded fuel break in the Lower Deer Creek—Penn Valley project area (Res. 23-420, Res. 25-105).

The planning phase of the Lower Deer Creek — Penn Valley Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is nearing completion. Planning has consisted of obtaining landowner permission to conduct treatments, designing treatments with a Registered Professional Forester, and obtaining environmental compliance with all applicable state and federal laws.

Nevada County OES has contracted with Vestra Resources Inc. (Res. 25-539) to lead on the ground project activities, including achieving environmental compliance. Vestra Resources Inc. is achieving environmental compliance for the Lower Deer Creek — Penn Valley Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project through the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Vestra Resources Inc. has completed the required analysis and documentation for the project. The Nevada County Planning Department has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration documentation prepared by Vestra and found them in accordance with CEQA.

In accordance with further CEQA requirements, a Notice of Determination (NOD) must be filed with the Nevada County Clerk Recorder's Office following Board approval. The NOD serves as a public notice of the County's determination that the project has been adequately analyzed and that no additional environmental documentation is required. After Board approval, the Mitigated Negative Declaration will be posted to the County website for public viewing and submitted to the State Clearinghouse. This resolution will authorize the Director of Emergency Services to sign and file the NOD for the Lower Deer Creek— Penn Valley Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project, allowing the County to proceed with implementation.

**Item Initiated by:** Corinne Benson, Administrative Analyst II

**Approved by:** Alex Keeble-Toll, Director of Emergency Services