



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

950 MAIDU AVENUE, SUITE 170, NEVADA CITY, CA 95959-8617
(530) 265-1222 FAX (530) 265-9851 <http://mynevadacounty.com>

Sean Powers
Community Development Agency Director

Brian Foss
Planning Director

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

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Brian Foss, Planning Director**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving a contract with Raney Planning & Management, Inc. for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR19-0001) and contract planning services for the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project in the maximum amount of \$381,194, directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Planning Department Fiscal Year 2019/2020 budget. (4/5 affirmative vote required)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Resolution establishing a contract with Raney Planning & Management, Inc. for the preparation of a CEQA Environmental Impact Report and contract planning services for the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley Project in the maximum amount of \$381,194 and amending the Planning Department Fiscal Year 2019/2020 budget.

FUNDING: The EIR expenses are paid by the project applicant and no General Fund impact is expected.

ATTACHMENT: Resolution with Exhibit A: Personal Services Contract (Scope of Services and Schedule of Compensation)

BACKGROUND: On February 7, 2020, Requests for Proposals for a Work Program and Bid for Professional Planning Services were sent to six consulting firms. Responses were received from three of those firms. A panel of County staff from the Community Development Agency and the Planning Department as well staff from the City of Grass Valley and the County's Mining Inspector reviewed all of the proposals independently. Interviews with two of most qualified consulting firms were conducted, with Raney Planning & Management, being selected based on having the best qualifications in both

preparation of previous CEQA Environmental Impact Reports and in providing contract planning services.

Raney Planning & Management had the most comprehensive proposal overall with a strong focus and approach to analyzing water impacts, traffic impacts and biological impacts anticipated as part of the construction and operation of the proposed project. Overall, their proposal was the most well organized, the level of analysis was the most well described and the cost was reasonable and comparable to other proposals that described lesser approaches to completing the analysis, EIR and in providing contract project planning services.

Portions of the other proposals had some strong points, however, the proposal from Raney Planning & Management was the most comprehensive and addressed the issues that were unique and specific to Nevada County and the proposed Idaho-Maryland Mine – Rise Grass Valley project. Raney Planning & Management appropriately identified potential impacts to water resources, both ground water and surface water, and included a qualified water consultant in the proposal to study and address impacts to water resources. In addition, Raney Planning & Management also appropriately identified potential impacts to traffic that would result from the proposed project, and included a qualified traffic consultant in the proposal to peer review the Traffic Impact Analysis which has been prepared by the applicant for the project. In addition, Raney Planning & Management also presented a strong approach to providing contract planning services for the project and demonstrated a strong ability to provide well written and highly technical staff reports and other documents necessary to represent the County as the planner for the project under direction from the Planning Department. These and other important considerations were not as strong in the other proposals.

Based on the review of those responses received, the County proposes to hire Raney Planning & Management, Inc., to perform the work. The scope of work with associated tasks and costs is attached to the contract.

Please contact me should you require additional information or background.

Item Initiated by: Matt Kelley, Senior Planner

Approved by: Brian Foss, Planning Director