



**COUNTY OF NEVADA**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
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**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**Board Agenda Memo**

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**MEETING DATE:** December 17, 2019

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Jessica Hankins, Public Works Project Manager

**SUBJECT:** **Resolution Approving Amendment No. 1 to the Contract between the County of Nevada and Dokken Engineering for Professional Engineering Services for the South Yuba River at North Bloomfield Road Bridge Replacement Project, Extending the Term of the Contract to December 31, 2024**

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached resolution.

**FUNDING:** The funding for this project is from the Highway Bridge Program (HBP), which is fully reimbursable. The project is included in the 2019 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). No budget amendment is required and there is no impact to the General Fund.

**BACKGROUND:** On December 2, 2014, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 14-529 awarding a contract to Dokken Engineering for up to \$635,045.59 for professional engineering services for the South Yuba River at North Bloomfield Road Bridge Replacement Project, locally known as Edwards Crossing.

At the time the original contract was executed, the project was anticipated to be a rehabilitation of the existing crossing, adding some structural support and load capacity to the existing one-way bridge. Dokken Engineering prepared a feasibility study for this option, and a public outreach meeting was scheduled for August 30, 2017. However, while the meeting was being held, the Pleasant Fire closed State Route 49 to traffic in the South Yuba River Canyon. This created a need for emergency ingress and egress at the nearest and most accessible crossing, which is at North Bloomfield Road. The Edwards Crossing bridge at North Bloomfield, however, has only one lane with very little turnout area on the approaches, and it created a bottleneck with traffic unable to efficiently evacuate the area. This situation caused concern among the public and County staff that simply rehabilitating the one-lane bridge might be inadequate for emergency access purposes. Two months later in October 2017, widespread Northern California wildfires and response challenges to them prompted staff and the community to again take a closer look at emergency access in the South Yuba River Canyon.

Staff then conducted additional public outreach with an online survey, and it emerged that residents and County staff most supported a replacement option that would bring the bridge up to modern emergency access standards. A replacement option would include construction of a new two-lane bridge able to carry

fully loaded emergency response vehicles, substantial improvement of the bridge approaches, improved redundancy in the transportation network, and minimized impacts to the State Park users. It would also include rehabilitation of the existing historic bridge to maintain it as a pedestrian and river access facility for State Park/BLM users.

Dokken Engineering has revised their original Feasibility Study for the bridge to include a preliminary conceptual study of alternative replacement bridge routes. County staff and Dokken Engineering have met with Caltrans to review these options for funding potential, and Dokken Engineering is now in the process of developing initial environmental documents to begin the environmental review process under the California Environmental Policy Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These additional studies, processes and Caltrans approval of these various steps have consumed a substantial portion of the initial contract term, leading staff to request that the Board of Supervisors approve an amendment to the original contract to extend the end date from December 31, 2019, to December 31, 2024. The new contract end date would provide the additional time needed to undergo environmental review, any necessary right of way acquisition, and engineering and design work.

**Item Initiated by:** Jessica Hankins, Public Works Project Manager

**Approved by:** Trisha Tillotson, Director of Public Works

Submittal Date: November 18, 2019