



**COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

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

MEETING DATE: June 28, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency Director

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the Grant Award Agreement with Bear Yuba Land Trust for the Trailkeeper Program for \$11,500 funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and authorizing the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute the Grant Agreement with awardee.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution.

FUNDING: This grant award to Bear Yuba Land Trust in the amount of \$11,500 will be funded through the Outdoor Recreation and Visitor Safety Funds (see table below) which is funded through Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars and General Fund Economic Infrastructure Assignment dollars. This project will be 100% funded by ARPA. There are no General Fund dollars used for this Agreement. An amendment to the 2022/2023 Recreation budget is presented under file ID SR 22-0786.

This award is one of three awards recommended to address timely health and safety issues resulting from increased visitation to Nevada County's outdoor recreation assets related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

USE OF FUNDS: Trailkeepers, (formally known as Trail Ambassadors), is a program that the Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT) started in 2019 and is relaunching this summer of 2022. The Trailkeeper program focuses on engaging with the community at popular BYLT hiking trails in Nevada County to promote public safety and raise awareness about wildfire prevention and leave no trace principles addressing waste (not littering and picking up after pets). Trailkeepers will be composed of paid interns and volunteers that will act as trail 'experts' to be able to answer questions about flora and fauna, BYLT, and conduct Surveys. The surveys are to gather data from the public about recreational amenities. The goal for this Trailkeepers program is to gather enough data to make informed decisions based on community assessment and educate the public about trail safety.

Trails Served

Alan Theisen Trail, Hirschman Trail, Cascade Canal Trail, Independence Trail, Deer Creek Tribute Trail

Each BYLT trail will have a Trailkeeper booth on alternating Saturdays during the hours of 8:30-11:30 am over a four-month period.

TASK	COUNTY FUNDING	BYLT FUNDING	TOTAL FUNDING
BYLT Community Engagement Manager	\$3500	\$500	\$4000
3 Trailkeeper Interns	\$3000	\$0	\$3000
Trailkeeper t-shirts	\$500	\$0	\$500
Materials and supplies*	\$3000	\$0	\$3,000
Administrative Costs	\$500	\$500	\$1000
Total	\$11,500	\$1,000	\$11,500

*includes items such as tables, chairs, and table covers, trail county clickers, clipboards, first aid kits, accepted trail use signs, canopy, banners, and materials such as brochures and handouts about safety and events to enable program implementation and expansion.

BACKGROUND: The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) (H.R. 1319) is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package passed by Congress and signed by President Joseph Biden on March 11, 2021 in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic challenges.

On April 27, 2021, staff brought a preliminary ARPA Expenditure Plan to the Board for direction. The plan included a recommendation to allocate 30% of ARPA funds (\$5.8M) to “Community & Economic Resiliency” projects, with the caveat that Allocations to remain flexible to best support Board objectives. This included one loan program and four grant programs, one of which is the Outdoor Recreation and Visitor Safety fund. The preliminary plan was further refined after discussions at the 2022 Board Workshops added Recreation as an objective, ratified at the February 8 BOS regular meeting; which included additional funding (general fund) augmenting the ARPA funds for recreation.

“Community & Economic Resiliency” Programs	ARPA Amount:	Status:
Nevada County Relief Fund	\$250,000	BOS approved 7/13/21; microgrants to small businesses managed by Sierra Business Council. Complete.
Community Resiliency Grants Program	Up to \$2 million allotted	BOS approved Awards 11/9/21. BOS approved \$1,991,884 in Round One; one contract could not move forward so a second RFP was released, augmented with other unexpended ARPA funds to total \$140,000. Awards for second round were approved at the 5/24 board meeting.
Resilience Loan Fund	\$250,000	Pending. For revolving loan fund to be managed by Sierra Business Council.
Economic Recovery Funds (infrastructure)	Up to \$2,300,000	Pending. For eligible infrastructure projects (water, sewer, broadband).
Outdoor Recreation and Visitor Safety Funds	\$450,000 (Update: Augmented with \$400,000 General Fund Economic Infrastructure Assignment dollars	For improvements to major river crossings and trailheads impacted by increased visitation. A competitive RFP is has been completed, with recommended awards to be brought to the June 28 BOS meeting. Three awards recommended in

	to total \$850,000; originally proposed \$800,000-\$1 million).	this staff report will be allocated from this fund.
Identified Recreation Priorities: Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan, Recreation Administration, Public Safety and Communications, River Parking Study	\$550,000 (Update: Specific recreation priorities, augmented with \$200,000 General Fund Economic Infrastructure Assignment dollars.	Priorities aligned with Board objectives were proposed at the 2022 Board Workshop along with the new objective which was adopted at the February 8, 2022 Board Meeting.
Total:	\$5.8 million* ARPA/\$600,00 general fund	<i>*Allocations to remain flexible to best support Board objectives</i>

At its January 2022 retreat, the Board identified a new objective for 2022: “To promote sustainable recreation in partnership with community providers and other jurisdictions to enhance recreational access, support public health and safety, realize economic opportunities, and preserve natural resource assets” and later ratified at their regular meeting on February 8. The Board also supported six related specific initiatives, including to “Identify and implement strategies to promote health and safety at river crossings, lakes, trailheads, and other high-use or high-risk areas.” This initiative has been informed by the work of the South Yuba River Safety Cohort in Western Nevada County, and the Convene, Champion and Catalyze in Eastern Nevada County.

The Board also provided direction updating the preliminary plan above to identify \$450,000 in ARPA funding and \$400,000 in General Fund Economic Development Infrastructure Assignment funding for a total of \$850,000 in the Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund.

Staff are in process of administering Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund grants through a competitive process expected to total approximately \$362,000 in the first round.

This award, along with two others which will altogether total \$43,205, carry out the Board’s Recreation objective, immediately furthering the initiative to address health and safety at high-use, high-risk river crossings using funding designated to the Outdoor Recreation and Visitor Safety Fund.

Grant recipient will be required to submit quarterly reports beginning in September 2022.

Recommended action:

Staff recommends the Board adopt the attached Resolution approving the Grant Award Agreement with Bear Yuba Land Trust and authorizing the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute the Agreement.

Item Initiated by: Ariel Lovett, Project Administrator

Approved by: Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency Director