



Information and General Services Department

Office of Emergency Services

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: March 8, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Steve Monaghan, Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: Resolution accepting AB2766 funds from the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) in the amount of \$150,000 for wildfire mitigation efforts including the Green Waste Disposal, Chipping, and Access and Functional Needs Assistance Programs which reduce smoke impacts to the community as it disposes of high levels of downed vegetation produced by the recent intensive winter storm and to amend the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Office of Emergency Services budget (4/5 affirmative vote required)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution.

FUNDING: The revenue received from the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management Grant and the program expenditures will go through the FY 21/22 Office of Emergency Services Budget. A budget amendment has been included for approval.

BACKGROUND:

Nevada County has an overabundance of downed trees and vegetation as a result of the recent severe winter storm which began the morning of December 27th 2021. This abnormally high level of green waste makes Nevada County vulnerable to wildfire during the fast approaching fire season. Larger amounts of vegetation along with the high cost of removal remains a significant barrier for many property owners when it comes to fuels reduction. Some property owners with the intention of stewarding their land to reduce the threat of wildfire cannot afford steep disposal fees. Alternatively, residents may choose to dispose of their green waste by burning it. While burn piles may provide a cost-effective solution for processing this material, it is not an ideal means of disposal as coronavirus remains a respiratory pandemic, and the need for a larger than usual amount of burn piles to process vegetation left by the December snow-storm poses a threat to air quality.

On February 28th, 2022, at their regular board meeting the NSAQMD considered expending AB2766 funds. AB2766 funds are derived from DMV vehicle license surcharges and in large jurisdictions are utilized for equipment and activities which reduce air pollution from vehicles. Air District policy provides rural air districts the flexibility to assess program needs and the overall air



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quality benefits of proposed projects and to allocate AB2766 DMV surcharges accordingly. During their February 28th meeting the NSAQMD voted to approve \$150,000 to support hazardous vegetation removal programming and provide alternatives to pile burning through green waste disposal, chipping, and removal for residents with Access and Functional Needs. The funding plan has not been finalized at this time as we work collaboratively with the state on emergency reimbursement funding.

NSAQMD funding will first be used to support the county's currently scheduled green waste disposal days and then, if resources allow, initiate chipping and Access and Functional Needs programs.

Item Initiated by: Josh White

Approved by: Steve Monaghan