



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

MEETING DATE: May 28, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Craig Griesbach – Director of Emergency Services**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the contract between Yuba Watershed Institute and the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project (SNC #1512) in the amount of \$179,201 for use during the period May 28, 2024 through February 28, 2027, authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute the contract and directs the Auditor Controller to amend the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Emergency Services Budget. (4/5 Affirmative Vote Required)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Sierra Nevada Conservancy awarded \$214,666.00 in grant funds to the Office of Emergency Services (SNC #1512). OES will contract with Yuba Watershed Institute for an amount not to exceed \$179,210.00 Remaining grant funds will be used by OES for project management, administration, and overhead costs. There is no match requirement. A budget amendment for the contract award has been included for approval. Because a budget amendment is included in this Resolution, a four-fifths affirmative vote is required for Board approval.

BACKGROUND: The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project was identified as a priority wildfire mitigation action by the CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer 2022 Strategic Plan. A suite of local partners including CAL FIRE Battalion 14, North San Juan Fire Protection District, 13 Firewise Communities, and local non-profit Yuba Watershed Institute have also identified this project as a priority.

The purpose of this project is to conduct landscape-scale forest health treatment to reduce the unacceptable level of wildfire risk that the disadvantaged communities of North San Juan, Nevada City, Grass Valley, Penn Valley and Rough and Ready currently face. This

project will complete the necessary planning for fuels mitigation on 1,800 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land that is nested in and around the privately owned land included in the 6,000-acre landscape-scale planning area that is being addressed with FEMA-HMGP Grant funds (DR-4482-693-19, Phase 1). Utilization of SNC funds for planning on BLM land is strategic as FEMA (federal) funds cannot be used on federal land but SNC (state agency) funds can.

Non-profit partner Yuba Watershed Institute is leading the FEMA-funded work (Res. 24-156) and has a long-standing relationship with BLM for wildfire mitigation actions on parcels located on the South Yuba Rim and is thus uniquely positioned to take on this work.

Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI), a Nevada City-based non-profit established in 1990. At the core of the YWI is a cooperative management agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Timber Framers Guild of North America for the joint management of nearly 2,000 acres of forestland on 10 parcels in Nevada County. The broad intent of this agreement is to demonstrate that local citizens can become active partners in managing public lands for their intrinsic biological and landscape values as well as for the economic and cultural sustenance of the community.

OES will contract with YWI to manage and execute the SNC #1512 Project. OES staff will manage the overall project and administrate the grant.

Item Initiated by: Alex Keeble-Toll, Senior Administrative Analyst

Approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director of Emergency Services