



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

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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:** **Brian Foss, Planning Director**

**SUBJECT:** Presentation on the Nevada County Recreation & Park Services:  
Evaluation of Governance Alternatives by Economic & Planning  
Systems, Inc. (EPS)

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Accept the presentation and report on the Nevada County Recreation & Park Services: Evaluation of Governance Alternatives by Economic & Planning Systems, Inc. and direct staff to form and facilitate a community coalition.

**FUNDING:** The preparation of the Governance Alternatives Report was funded by the balance of the AB1600 funds and the General Fund Unassigned account. The project impacted the 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020 Planning Department budget and General Fund.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Final Report - Nevada County Recreation and Park Services: Evaluation of Governance Alternatives

**BACKGROUND:**

On December 12, 2017, the Board adopted Resolution 17-623 executing a contract between the County of Nevada and Economic & Planning Systems, Inc. for the preparation of an AB1600 Park and Recreation Facilities Nexus Study and a District Consolidation Feasibility Study in the amount of \$85,000. On December 11, 2018, EPS presented a draft AB1600 Parks and Recreation Facility Nexus Study for the Board's consideration. At the meeting, the Board directed staff to return with a draft ordinance updating the County's ASB1600 Fee Schedule and adopted Resolution 18-580 extending the Contract's expiration date to December 31, 2019 for the preparation of the District Consolidation Feasibility Study. On January 8, 2019 the Board adopted Ordinance 2460

amending Section L-IX of Article 1 of Chapter IX of the Nevada County Land Use and Development Code regarding Park and Recreation Facilities Mitigation Fees per their input on December 11, 2018.

Further, on June 25, 2019, the Board adopted Resolution 19-329 broadening the scope of services to the District Consolidation Feasibility Study to include evaluation of the various governance models and structures along with their respective funding mechanisms, and to include the cities of Nevada City and the City of Grass Valley. Two community meetings were also held with representatives from all three special districts, both cities and various community stakeholders' to provide insight and input from the community.

EPS has now completed the study called Nevada County Recreation & Park Services: Evaluation of Governance Alternatives that include several findings on potential options to enhance park and recreation services within western Nevada County. The study identifies and evaluations the potential advantages and disadvantageous of district consolidation/reorganization, forming a park and recreation joint powers authority and forming a committee/commission. Most importantly, the study identifies the need for sustained funding regardless of governance or structure model employed. Additionally, the study notes that a committee/commission could serve as an initial advisory body as a potential next step. Staff recommends that a community coalition be formed that will be organized and facilitated by County staff to explore these next steps and work with the stakeholders, park districts and the cities to further common recreation goals and explore a regional framework to coordinate programming and provide efficient services to the user groups. Both the cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City have been contacted regarding this potential next step and have indicated their willingness to participate in the coalition with the County and recreation stakeholders and providers.

Therefore, staff's recommendation is to accept the presentation and report on the Nevada County Recreation & Park Services: Evaluation of Governance Alternatives by Economic & Planning Systems, Inc. and direct staff to form and facilitate a community coalition.

**Item Initiated by:** Jeffrey Thorsby, Senior Management Analyst

**Approved by:** Brian Foss, Director of Planning