



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 – IGS-Emergency Services**
Craig Griesbach – CDA – Building Department

SUBJECT: Resolution approving Amendment No.2 to Contract No. PESP4415 with Fire Safe Council of Nevada County increasing the contract not to exceed amount from \$50,000 to \$250,000, for winter storm support and green waste mitigation, amending the Office of Emergency Services Fiscal Year 2021/22 budget, and authorizing the Purchasing Agent to execute the amendment (4/5 affirmative vote required)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution.

FUNDING: The contract will be paid from the Office of Emergency Services FY 21/22 budget. A budget amendment is required and included for approval in the amount of \$150,000. County staff are currently working towards potential reimbursement of emergency response activities. This reimbursement would cover 75% of the eligible expenditures with 25% to be paid by County General Fund and anticipated receipt of a Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Grant. Reimbursement may take up to two years for eligible expenditure claims.

A final funding plan for amounts not reimbursed by the State has not been finalized at this time. Given the urgent nature of the contract amendment, it is recommended that General Fund be used to make vendor payments, while a final funding plan is evaluated, and State reimbursement is finalized.

BACKGROUND: On December 27, 2021 in the early morning, Nevada County was hit with an intense winter snow-storm (Snow-storm) bringing excessive amounts of snow to areas that typically receive little to no snow. The Snow-storm caused over 30,000 Nevada County residents to lose PG&E utility power service with PG&E saying it could take many days for restoration. As a result of the Snow-storm hundreds of trees have been reported down across county roads, with many trees having attached utility power lines to them and there has been numerous calls for service from local residents who have had trees land on their

homes.

An emergency proclamation was ratified on December 30, 2021 in an emergency Board of Supervisors meeting by Resolution 21-541. The Local Emergency Proclamation enables Nevada County to more effectively respond to the Snow-storm, seek and utilize mutual aid, obtain state and federal funds (if available), and ensure that the County's resources and economy, as well as the community at large, have all the necessary tools at their disposal to endure this ongoing challenge. The State of California declared an emergency on December 30, 2021 in support of Counties recovering from the Winter Storms.

The County entered into a contract with Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, effective January 3, 2022, for Winter Storm Support and Green Waste Mitigation. The contract was subsequently amended on January 8, 2022 to capture additional overhead labor rates. To date the contractor has removed vegetation, processed firewood, and processed green waste with a total of \$124,112 as of February 18, 2022.

There remains a significant number of downed trees and vegetation throughout the community. This presents many challenges for neighborhoods hardest hit from these storms to dispose of green waste and reduce these fire fuels prior to the start of fire season. In response to this need, staff are collaborating with Robinson Enterprises, Inc and the Nevada County Fire Safe Council to conduct three free emergency storm green waste drop off events during the weekends of March 11-13, March 25-27, and April 8-10. The Fire Safe Council will be contracted to facilitate and staff these events. It is estimated that it will cost \$68,238.50 to provide these services associated to the emergency storm green waste drop off events. Staff are also diligently working on obtaining required permits for these events from the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), Community Development Agency (CDA), local fire district, and the California State Water Resources Control Board.

With the addition of the emergency storm green waste drop off events in response to the Snow-storm declared emergency, staff recommends amending the existing contract from \$50,000 to \$250,000 to pay for these services as well as the vegetation management services in the rights-of-way Fire Safe provided during the initial response to the emergency. This amendment also extends the termination date from March 31, 2022 to June 30, 2022 to accommodate the additional time frame for the services.

County staff are working with the State on the vegetation removal and green waste processing in response to the declared Snow-storm Emergency for reimbursement once the California Disaster Assistance Act is authorized. Once authorized the

County will be eligible for reimbursement up to 75% of eligible expenditures with the remaining 25% to be paid from the County General Fund and anticipated receipt of a Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Grant. A budget amendment has been included in the amount of \$250,000 for approval. Staff and Cal OES are currently in conversations regarding additional green waste efforts while also collaborating with several community non-profit and volunteer organizations.

Item Initiated by: Craig Griesbach

Approved by: Steve Monaghan