



**COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

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

MEETING DATE: January 25, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Brian Foss, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the Nevada County Planning Department to submit a grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to request a \$200,000 grant to fund development of a Recreation and Resilience Master Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the resolution.

FUNDING: This resolution reflects the intent to apply for and receive grant funds. The board has identified \$250,000 in ARPA funding for a Recreation and Resilience Master plan. The proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will include \$150,000 in match funding from this designation, although dependent on final scope of work and RFP process, the County may match up to \$250,000. The item will be brought back to the Board if funding is awarded and any required budget amendments will be requested at that time.

BACKGROUND: Rural Nevada County enjoys an abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities. Residents and tourists are drawn to the natural beauty and rural quality of life, including access to rivers, lakes, trails, and open spaces. In recent years, the County has experienced a dramatic increase in people accessing these natural resources for recreation. Without appropriate infrastructure, this increased visitation strains local resources, creating environmental and safety issues at lakes, river crossings, and trails, and opportunities to realize economic benefits are missed.

In recognition of the connection between the economic resilience of our community, the health of ecosystems, and tourism and outdoor recreation, and the opportunity to support community health, safety, economy, environment, and resilience, the Board of Supervisors established the *Ad Hoc* Open Space & Trails Subcommittee to provide oversight and coordination to further open space and trail planning and implement priority objectives.

An organizing plan is needed to coordinate and communicate a strategic vision of stakeholder priorities and provide an actionable road map to support health and safety, sustain economic benefits, and protect

our environment. Nevada County Planning Department will be responsible for selecting, hiring, and overseeing a consultant to develop the Recreation and Resilience Master Plan (“Master Plan”).

Developed with substantial community input, the Master Plan will articulate community recreation needs and priorities and identify strategies for developing and maintaining new and existing open spaces, trails, and other outdoor recreation amenities. The Master Plan will include a workplan and budget for priority projects and programs that enhance responsible use of trails and outdoor recreation resources, prioritize conservation, and leverage economic opportunity.

Strategic priorities for immediate action and long-term sustainable solutions include:

- Identify and implement effective strategies to promote sustainable recreation to protect and preserve natural resources
- Invest in open space and trails as part of a coordinated economic development strategy
- Deploy resources and personnel to ensure public safety and public health

The Master Plan and its associated process, will drive the following outcomes:

- Provide substantive opportunities for the community to participate in the planning process
- Articulate a shared vision for the functional, programmatic, and aesthetic characteristics of existing and future recreation amenities in Nevada County
- Recommend a prioritized list of outdoor recreation projects, programs, and policies that can realize that vision
- Quantify the cultural, environmental, economic, and ecological benefits of these prioritized projects, programs, and policies
- Detail feasible solutions for financing, phasing, and maintaining community investments in recreation, open space, and trail resources with an emphasis on “shovel-ready” projects that maximize ARPA, State Budget, and Infrastructure opportunities to bring resources to the Sierra Nevada

The grant, if awarded, together with ARPA funds will be used to retain a qualified consultant to develop the Recreation and Resilience Master Plan, anticipated to be completed by December 2023.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy requires an authorizing resolution to apply for grant funding.

Recommended action:

Staff recommends the Board adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the Nevada County Planning Department to submit a \$200,000 grant proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to fund development of a Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan.

Item Initiated by: Brian Foss, Planning Director

Approved by: Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency Director