



# Information and General Services Department

Office of Emergency Services  
10014 N. Bloomfield Road  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
Phone: 530-265-1515  
Fax: 530-265-7087

Information Systems  
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## NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

**MEETING DATE:** April 28, 2020

**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 \$182,153 for wildfire mitigation efforts including the Green Waste Disposal, Chipping, and Access and Functional Needs Assistance Programs to reduce smoke impacts during the COVID-19 respiratory pandemic and to amend the FY 19/20 Office of Emergency Services budget (Requires 4/5 affirmative vote)

**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 19/20 Office of Emergency Services Budget. A budget amendment has been included for approval.

**BACKGROUND:**

Nevada County has an overabundance of vegetation which makes it vulnerable to wildfire for a significant portion of the year. Unfortunately, the high cost of removal of this vegetation 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 green waste. 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 COVID-19 disproportionately affects vulnerable populations with existing comorbidities.

On April 16, 2020, the NSAQMD held a special board meeting to consider 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 quality benefits of proposed projects and to allocate AB2766 DMV surcharges accordingly. The NSAQMD voted to approve \$182,153 to support hazardous vegetation removal programming to provide alternatives to pile burning through green waste disposal, chipping, and removal for residents with Access and Functional Needs.



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Funding from the NSAQMD will provide resources to more than double the impact of the existing program. Additional funding will allow the disposal days to take place at 3 community sites, for 3 days a week (Sunday-Tuesday), from 9am-3pm, over 6 consecutive weeks. Free wood chip pick up will also be available on Fridays and Saturdays. Green waste disposal will take place from May 17 through June 27 in Western Nevada County. In Eastern Nevada County, funding will provide for approximately 5-6 weekends of free residential green waste disposal for property owners.

Beyond providing free residential green waste, these resources will assist 15 low income residents with access and functional needs to receive defensible space clearing around their homes. This program has been unfunded for several years, and with 26% of the Nevada County population being 65 years of age and over, the need to assist individuals with access and functional needs far exceeds existing resources.

Finally, funding from the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District will provide for 15 weeks of free chipping to the community at a critical time this spring, before the arrival of fire season. The chipping crew will work 4 days per week, allocating 1 day per week in Eastern Nevada County.

**Item Initiated by:** Jenn Tamo

**Approved by:** Steve Monaghan