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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: October 28, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Alex Keeble-Toll – Office of Emergency Services**

SUBJECT: Resolution accepting the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds for the HMGP DR-4353-23-33 Nevada County Abatement Program Phase 2 in the amount of \$2,303,812.50 (federal share), \$119,169.25 (Phase 2 Management Costs), with a required in-kind match of \$767,937.50 for use during the period October 28, 2025 through March 22, 2026, authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute the grant agreement and all additional documents required to fulfill the requirements of the agreement on behalf of the County of Nevada, and directing the Auditor Controller to amend the Office of Emergency Services Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget (4/5 affirmative vote required)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The \$2,422,981.70 in funds will be received in the Office of Emergency Services (OES) budget. This funding includes \$119,169.25 in management costs for OES staff to administer the project. FEMA HMGP requires 25% match for every federal dollar expended, which totals \$767,937.50. OES in-kind staff time spent on the project and Firewise Community in-kind time will be used to satisfy the match requirement. A budget amendment for the revenue and expenditures related to the federal share has been included for review and approval.

BACKGROUND:

The County of Nevada has a severe and present danger from wildfire presenting a threat to public health and safety and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) released Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding to reduce their losses from natural hazards.

A key component of reducing the loss of life and property due to wildfire is the creation of defensible space around private properties and driveways. For residents who are low-income and elderly or have access and functional needs it can be difficult or impossible to meet defensible space objectives.

The County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services previously executed two FEMA HMGP funded Phase 1 projects to improve defensible space for low-income residents who are elderly or have access and functional needs (Res. 21-425 and Res. 21-426). These Phase 1 Projects closed out April 2, 2023. A deliverable of Phase 1 was a list of eligible applicants for FEMA review and approval for Phase 2.

The County of Nevada is now being awarded a Phase 2 project to complete additional work for 169 properties totaling 109.6 acres. Activities shall include trimming and thinning trees and brush, removal of ladder fuels, and performing other fuels reduction activities around the houses and driveways of properties that have been pre-approved by FEMA for this work.

It is important to note that it will not be possible to complete the full scope of approved activities given the extremely short project performance period. Nevada County OES received notification that these funds would be awarded on June 27, 2025, however, Cal OES and FEMA immediately retracted the Award Letter to correct several aspects, including the Nevada County FIPs Code and the Phase 2 Scope. Nevada County OES received the revised Award Letter from Cal OES on October 8, 2025 and subsequently took immediate action to bring the funds to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance at the earliest feasible date.

FEMA has indicated that they do not plan to offer any time extensions for the Disaster Relief (DR) number funding the project. Cal OES has advised County of Nevada to complete as much work as possible within the currently specified project performance period.

Item Initiated by: Alex Keeble-Toll, Director of Emergency Services

Approved by: Alex Keeble-Toll, Director of Emergency Services