



Information and General Services Agency

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

MEETING DATE: August 23, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Steve Monaghan, Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: Resolution to execute amendment 1 to the contract between the County of Nevada and Ascent Environmental, Inc to develop a broadband programmatic environmental impact report extending the contract term from August 30, 2022 to June 30, 2023

RECOMMENDATION: Approve resolution

FUNDING: This project will continue to be paid from the Information and General Services Administration Budget with \$226,000 from the PG&E settlement funds and \$50,000 from a grant from the California Emerging Technology Fund. A budget amendment is not needed and there is no further impact to the General Fund.

BACKGROUND: Broadband is a top Board of Supervisors priority for 2022, “equitably expand broadband to support economic development, distance-learning, telework, telemedicine, and general quality of life for all residents by championing the implementation of Nevada County Broadband Strategy Plan policies and last-mile infrastructure projects.” Communities just like Nevada County will competitively compete for State and Federal funding over the next several years. The County broadband team’s goal and strategy to securing funding for our community is to make our County as broadband provider friendly & attractive, and local broadband projects as “shovel ready” as possible. A major component on both of these fronts is to lessen the environmental review, uncertainty risk, and approval burden of cost and time for broadband construction projects.

It is the objective of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to strive to achieve Digital Equity so that all Nevada County residents have access to broadband infrastructure to improve their quality of life. A Countywide Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is intended to comply with the California

Environmental Quality Act effectively and efficiently to facilitate accelerated deployment of ubiquitous broadband infrastructure in Nevada County.

On October 12, 2021, the Board of Supervisors approved Resolution 21-455 to execute a contract with Ascent Environmental Inc to develop a broadband programmatic EIR in an amount not to exceed \$276,000 for a term of October 12, 2021 through August 30, 2022. The vendor continues to make progress on the draft EIR and requires additional time to complete the work in the Scope of Work in Exhibit A in the supporting document attached. This amendment one to the contract extends the contract termination date to June 30, 2023 with all other terms and conditions remaining unchanged. It is recommended that the Board approve this Amendment as it will provide additional time to complete the EIR.

Item Initiated by and Approved by: Steve Monaghan