



# Information and General Services Department

## Office of Emergency Services

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## NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

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**MEETING DATE:** January 26, 2021

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Steve Monaghan – IGS-Emergency Services

**SUBJECT:** Resolution authorizing the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services to submit three grant applications to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to fund the Ponderosa and South County Fuel Break Projects, as well as updates to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan in the total amount of \$6,165,768, which includes match; and authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute the application (The Ponderosa and South County Fuel Breaks are in Districts II, III, and IV)

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the Resolution.

**FUNDING:** The maximum federal award share provided by the Hazard Mitigation Program Grant (“HMGP”) is 75% of the total project cost. If each grant is awarded, the total federal share of the grants will equate to \$4,624,326 and will be received into the Emergency Management budget. The total non-federal share, or match, required for these grants is 25% of the total project costs, which equate to \$1,541,442 and include in-kind match. No additional General Funds would be required.

**BACKGROUND:** HMGP is authorized by Section 404 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5170c. The key purpose of HMGP is to ensure that the opportunity to take critical mitigation measures to reduce the risk of loss of life and property from future disasters is not lost during the reconstruction process following a disaster.

HMGP funding is available, when authorized under a Presidential major disaster declaration, in the areas of the State requested by the Governor. Hazard mitigation is defined as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects. Hazard mitigation is the only phase of emergency management specifically dedicated to breaking the cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

In August 2020, a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration was declared as a result of the Jones Fire, which was ignited by lightning in the South Yuba River Canyon. The County of Nevada is eligible to apply for activities that will have a long-term impact, such as the implementation of shaded fuel breaks as well as coordinated, multi-jurisdictional hazard and community wildfire planning.

The Ponderosa and South County Fuel Breaks will remove hazardous vegetation along critical evacuation routes to reduce the intensity of a potential wildfire, provide fire fighters a stronghold to defend lives and homes, and increase egress for residents fleeing an oncoming wildfire. Funding

is being pursued to complete additional vegetation clearance on Bureau of Land Management owned land adjacent to the Phase I of the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone which is nearly complete. This project is listed as a priority in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and the CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit Ignition Plan. The South County Fuel Break, located in Alta Sierra, will take place along approximately 9 miles of roadway encompassing 339 acres adjacent to Buck Mountain, Fairview, Morningside, Sharmiden, Brewer and Lodestar roadways. This project is also identified as a priority in the CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit Ignition Plan.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Act) mandates that all public entities complete a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) in order to be eligible for Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) program funding. This plan must be updated every five years. Nevada County is required to update its plan by August 2022 to remain eligible for PDM and HMA funding.

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment on private and public lands that will protect at-risk communities and critical infrastructure. Both the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan offer land managers, Special Districts, non-profits, municipalities, wildfire cooperators, the County, and the community an opportunity to better understand the shared hazards Nevada County faces. These planning efforts provide an opportunity for collaboration and coordination to more effectively mitigate various threats to Nevada County.

**Item Initiated by:** Paul Cummings

**Approved by:** Steve Monaghan

Submittal Date: January 11, 2020  
Revision Date: