



COUNTY OF NEVADA COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BOARD AGENDA MEMO

MEETING DATE: March 28, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County Executive Officer, or their designee to submit a grant application to the Adaptation Planning Grant Program, for funding in the amount of \$350,000

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: No match is required if the grant is awarded, but funding is per reimbursement. Staff will bring forward a budget amendment for consideration if the grant is awarded along with the approval of acceptance of grant funds. No general fund is required. Funding to take place for 2 years, beginning in FY 2023.

BACKGROUND: In February 2023, Nevada County's Board of Supervisors adopted the 2023 Priority Objectives that included Resolution No. SR 23-0127. This established the new objective of Climate Resilience to "Safeguard Nevada County's economic durability, environmental integrity, and public health and safety by preparing for, adapting to, and mitigating changing climate conditions in a way that reflects our rural quality of life."

As outlined in the 2023 Board Workshop, the Climate Resilience objective includes:

1. Protect and harden critical infrastructure.
2. Enhance carbon sequestration on natural and working lands.
3. Enhance collaboration to increase community capacity and achieve climate resilience goals.
4. Pursue funding and advocacy opportunities.
5. Align strategies in a coordinated plan.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research, through Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) administers the Adaptation Planning Grant Program (APGP) and received funds to implement the program through the provision of grants and staff support. APGP provides grant resources to a) identify climate resilience priorities, b) engage in integrated climate planning, and c) plan social and physical climate resilient infrastructure projects.

In 2021, the Town of Truckee, along with the Truckee Tahoe Airport District and the Truckee Donner Public Utility District, partnered with Sierra Business Council (SBC) to develop the Climate Transformation Alliance (CTA). CTA is a public-private partnership with the goal of reaching carbon neutrality in the Truckee Tahoe region by 2045. CTA partners, including Nevada County representatives, meet quarterly to discuss opportunities to implement projects. Nevada County is seeking to partner with the governing members of the CTA in a joint grant application to the APGP to achieve five key objectives. Sierra Business Council will be contracted to convene on the following implementation objectives:

1. Convene a climate collaborative in western Nevada County modeled after CTA, developing goals appropriate for Western Nevada County.
2. Update existing applicable County plans (i.e. Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Energy Action Plan).
3. Coalesce regional plans to construct a unified strategy and process for moving forward.
4. Increase participation in eastern-county CTA from disinvested communities.
5. Fund CTA programmatic work (i.e. adopt mitigation measures for existing buildings, and host community events that result in the implementation of climate adaptation and mitigation projects).

Staff is requesting the Board to authorize the County Executive Officer, or their designee to apply for \$350,000 from the Adaptation Planning Grant Program. If awarded, the County would serve as the lead applicant as well as the grant fiscal administrator. Staff anticipates contracting with Sierra Business Council for the implementation of the grant. The application deadline is March 31, 2023. Blank copies of the application narrative questions, application instructions, application workbook (including budget template), and guidelines are included in this packet.

This planning grant will directly advance the County's Climate Resilience objective and initiatives to a) pursue funding and advocacy opportunities, b) align strategies in a coordinated plan, and c) enhance collaboration to increase community capacity and achieve climate resilience goals. By building and expanding public-private climate coalitions in western and eastern Nevada County, strategies that are suited for the varying elevations, biodiversity, climate hazards, and vulnerable populations will have a pathway for coordinated implementation.

If selected for an award, the grant will be brought back to the Board of Supervisors for approval to accept the award and execute a contract with Sierra Business Council.

Item Initiated: Amy Cobden, Administrative Analyst II
Approved: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer
Submittal Date: March 13, 2023