



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

MEETING DATE: April 9, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Craig Griesbach – Director of Emergency Services**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the contract between Yuba Watershed Institute and the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services for the Prepare CA Match – Nevada County South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project (HMGP DR-4482-693-19 Phase 1) in the amount of \$710,000.00 during the period February 7, 2024 through June 1, 2025, authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute the contract, and directs the Auditor Controller to amend the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Emergency Services Budget.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: FEMA (“Federal Emergency Management Agency”) HMGP (“Hazard Grant Program Program”) awarded \$858,666.50 in grant funds to the Office of Emergency Services (HMGP DR-4482-693-19 Phase 1). OES will contract with Yuba Watershed Institute for an amount not to exceed \$710,000.000. There is no match requirement.

The HMGP funds also include \$141,861.00 in funds for OES staff to manage the project and coordinate outreach and engagement, \$6,805.50 for OES staff project-related travel and per diem, and an additional award of \$42,933.32 for Phase 1 Management Costs.

BACKGROUND: The Office of Emergency Services submitted a grant proposal to the FEMA HMGP in partnership with local non-profit Yuba Watershed Institute for the Prepare CA Match – Nevada County South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project on April 8, 2022. FEMA awarded funds for this project on February 7, 2024 in the amount of \$858,666.50 with an additional award of \$42,933.32 for Phase 1 Management Costs (HMGP DR-4482-693-19 Phase 1).

The South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project was identified as a priority wildfire mitigation action by the CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer 2022 Strategic Plan. A suite of local partners including CAL FIRE Battalion 14, North San Juan Fire Protection District, 13 Firewise Communities, and local non-profit Yuba Watershed Institute have identified this project as a priority.

The purpose of this project is to conduct landscape-scale forest health treatment to reduce the unacceptable level of wildfire risk that the disadvantaged communities of North San Juan, Nevada City, Grass Valley, Penn Valley and Rough and Ready currently face. This project will complete the necessary planning for treatment of 800 acres of privately owned land that is nested within a 6,000-acre landscape-scale strategic planning area located on the San Juan Ridge.

In sum, project implementation will result in a contiguous area of hazardous fuels reduction stretching along the north rim of the South Yuba River canyon from Bridgeport east for 16 miles to North Bloomfield. It will link together and build upon completed actions on State, Federal, and private lands and protect over 44,000 residents, critical infrastructure, and the Wild and Scenic South Yuba River from the impacts of wildfire.

The Nevada County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is in a unique position to be able to increase the pace and scale of wildfire mitigation in Nevada County by leveraging a cooperative partnership with Yuba Watershed Institute (YWI), a Nevada City-based non-profit established in 1990. At the core of the YWI is a cooperative management agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Timber Framers Guild of North America for the joint management of nearly 2,000 acres of forestland on 10 parcels in Nevada County. The broad intent of this agreement is to demonstrate that local citizens can become active partners in managing public lands for their intrinsic biological and landscape values as well as for the economic and cultural sustenance of the community.

OES will contract with YWI to manage and execute the HMGP DR-4482-693-19 Phase 1 Project. OES staff will manage the overall project, administrate the grant, and support outreach and engagement activities.

Item Initiated by: Alex Keeble-Toll, Senior Administrative Analyst

Approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director of Emergency Services

