



Information and General Services Department

Office of Emergency Services

950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959
Phone: 530-265-1515
Fax: 530-265-7087

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: September 27, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

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

SUBJECT: Resolution accepting the USDA, United States Forest Service (USFS), Pacific Southwest Region, Fire and Aviation Management Grant for the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Phase 2 Fuels Reduction Project in the amount of \$750,000 with a match of \$772,282 for a total project cost of \$1,522,282 during the period September 4, 2022 through September 30, 2024 and ratifies the execution of the Grant Agreement signed September 2, 2022 by the Director of Emergency Services and authorizes the Director of Emergency Services to execute all additional documents required to fulfill the requirements of the grant on behalf of the County of Nevada

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The \$750,000 grant funds will be received in the Office of Emergency Services budget. This project requires match in the amount of \$772,282 and will be comprised of a combination of PG&E Settlement Funds, General Fund and in-kind match for a total project cost of \$1,522,282. There are no expenses associated with this resolution, but a budget amendment may be needed at a later date in order to implement the grant activities.

BACKGROUND:

Nevada County responded to the FY22 Federal Earmark Opportunities under the Appropriations Fund, Subcommittee on Interior and Environment: United States Forest Service – State and Private Forestry (Landscape Scale Restoration Program) on April 23, 2021. The County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services request for FY22 funds was subsequently approved as Congressionally Designated Community Project Funds on May 19, 2022. The County of Nevada submitted a Grant Packet to USDA, United States Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, Fire and Aviation Management, the administrating agency of these funds on August 26, 2022. On September 4, 2022, USDA, United States Forest Service (USFS), Pacific Southwest Region, Fire and Aviation Management awarded the grant for the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Phase 2 Fuels Reduction Project (22-DG-11052012-131) to the County of Nevada.

As these funds had to be obligated by September 16, 2022 it was necessary to sign the grant agreement in advance of the September 27, 2022 Board of Supervisors Meeting.

The Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Phase 2 Fuels Reduction Project is listed in Nevada County's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, the CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer 2021 Strategic Plan and is ranked the number one priority in the Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This project is located in Western Nevada County, just west of the town of Grass Valley. The impact area of this project is 300 acres of privately owned property, bounded by Highway 20 to the south, and Bitney Springs Road to the north. The areas immediately affected by this project include the town of Grass Valley and the communities of Penn Valley, Rough and Ready, and Alta Sierra. Essential infrastructure located in the vicinity of the project in Western Nevada County would be protected by this project.

The objective of the project is to modify fuel loads to create a defense zone near homes and along roads including essential egress and ingress routes from nearby communities. The Project will ensure that the fuel treatments result in remaining vegetation that is diverse in age, species, and structure to create a defensible landscape for protection of the local communities.

This project will be a public private partnership between the landowners whose property will be treated and the County of Nevada and will leverage and extend the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Phase 1 Project that wrapped up on March 15, 2022. In sum, the Phase 1 and Phase 2 Projects will create a contiguous zone of wildfire protection running north-south between Bitney Springs Road (north) to McCourtney Road south).

This resolution accepts the USDA, United States Forest Service (USFS), Pacific Southwest Region, Fire and Aviation Management Grant for the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Phase 2 Fuels Reduction Project in the amount of \$750,000 with a match of \$772,282 for a total project cost of \$1,522,282 during the period September 4, 2022 through September 30, 2024, ratifies the execution of the Grant Agreement signed September 2, 2022 by the Director of Emergency Services and authorizes the Director of Emergency Services to execute all additional documents required to fulfill the requirements of the grant on behalf of the County of Nevada.

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

Approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director, OES

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igs@co.nevada.ca.us