



Information and General Services Department

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

*Information Systems
Geographic Information Systems
Facilities Management*

*Emergency Services
Central Services
Cable Television*

*Purchasing
Airport
Library*

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 CAL FIRE California Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grant for the 5GG21227 Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Project in the amount of \$2,178,004 for use during the period September 30, 2022 through March 15, 2026 and authorizing the Director of Office of Emergency Services to execute the grant agreement and 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 \$2,178,004 grant funds will be received in the Office of Emergency Services budget. A budget amendment is not required at this time and there is no additional impact on the General Fund.

BACKGROUND:

Nevada County submitted the Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Project grant application to CAL FIRE's California Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grant program on February 9, 2022. The Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break (Project) is a 410-acre project identified as a top priority in the Nevada-Yuba-Placer (NEU) 2021 Strategic Plan. The fuel break is located within high and very high fire hazard severity zones just southeast of Grass Valley. The area is flanked by critical evacuation corridors – State Highway 49 to the east and State Highway 174 to the north. Roughly bounded by Rattlesnake, Lower Colfax, and Mount Olive Roads, the area has numerous homes located in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

This project will be a public private partnership between the landowners whose property will be treated, the County of Nevada, and CAL FIRE. The objective of the project is to remove hazardous vegetation along critical primary and secondary evacuation routes and strategic ridgelines in order to tie road system arteries into a wildfire defense zone. The desired outcome is to reduce the intensity of a potential wildfire, provide fire fighters a stronghold to defend lives and homes, and provide safer ingress/egress routes for residents and emergency responders.

This CAL FIRE funded project is an integral piece of the BRIC 2021 Nature-Based Mitigation and Wildfire Retrofitting for Climate Resiliency in Nevada County Project, for which a proposal was submitted December 1, 2021 (SR 21-0847) and for which OES received notification of selection for further review on August 3, 2022. Specifically, a CAL FIRE grant for the Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Project was identified as a source of the required 25% local match for the BRIC project. The Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Project has been scoped to be implemented independent of the BRIC funding, however – to the extent possible the timeline associated with this CAL FIRE funded project will be aligned with the (pending) BRIC award so that these funds will be eligible to serve as local match. The Office of Emergency Services will bring the appropriate contracts for performance of the scope to the Board for approval upon completion of the Request for Proposal process.

The Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Project is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment– particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Cap-and-Trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across California. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at: www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov

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

Approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director, OES