



**COUNTY OF NEVADA**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

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Agricultural Commissioner

Building

Environmental Health

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Planning

Public Works

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

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**MEETING DATE:** June 13, 2023

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency Director

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving submittal of an application to the Habitat Conservation Fund grant program to fund recreation improvements to the Van Norden Meadow, with Nevada County as the lead agency in partnership with the South Yuba River Citizens League, and authorizing the Community Development Agency (CDA) Director or their designee to execute this application and other required documents.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**  
Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt the resolution.

**FUNDING:** There is no application fee for the Habitat Conservation Fund grant. If awarded, the grant funds (the application will be for \$550,000) will be passed through to the project manager, South Yuba River Citizens League. If the proposed grant application is awarded, the item will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

**BACKGROUND:**  
At the regular meeting of February 7, 2023, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 23-068, establishing Recreation as a 2023 Board Objective to promote sustainable recreation in partnership with community providers and other jurisdictions to enhance recreational access, support public health and safety, realize economic opportunities, and preserve natural resource assets.

The principal goal of the Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) Grant Program, administered by the Office of Grants and Local Services of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, is to protect, restore and enhance wildlife habitat.

Per the HCF, "The underlying concepts for the program are derived, in part, from the applicable sections of Proposition 117 as enacted in the following Fish and Game Code (FGC) sections:

FGC § 2786 (a) through (f): "...the money in the Habitat Conservation Fund, which is hereby created, shall be used for the following purposes: (a) The acquisition of habitat, including native oak woodlands, necessary to protect deer and mountain lions. (b) The acquisition of habitat to protect rare, endangered, threatened, or fully protected species. (c) The acquisition of habitat to further implement the Habitat Conservation Program pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 2721) excepting Section 2722 and subdivision (a) of Section 2723, and § 2724 and 2729 (d) The acquisition, enhancement, or restoration of wetlands. (e) The acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of aquatic habitat for spawning and rearing of anadromous salmonids and trout resources. (f) The acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of riparian habitat."

As such, Nevada County seeks to serve as lead agency in support of the proposed "Van Norden Meadow Restoration and Recreation" project by the South Yuba River Citizen's League.

The recreation portion of Van Norden Meadow Restoration and Recreation project, located in the Donner Summit area, includes improving the existing user created trail system, adding new trail sections to create a cohesive trail loop around the meadow, building safe and accessible stream crossings and adding two parking areas with bathrooms, trailheads, and educational signage.

In tandem with the meadow restoration project that began construction in 2022, whereby Nevada County was the CEQA lead, the objective is to improve, reroute, connect and construct up to 5 miles of multi-use trails to enhance equitable access and maintain environmental quality by:

- 1) minimizing the potential for disturbance to sensitive wildlife habitat through improved parking and trailhead areas with bathrooms
- 2) providing ADA accessible trail access, including boardwalks and bridges, to this unique habitat, and
- 3) promoting the aesthetic and educational benefits that a restored meadow provides by building viewing platforms/decks and developing bilingual interpretive signage.

The project team expects to complete all recreation plans in the summers of 2024 and 2025, prior to the 2027 grant completion deadline.

Upon the Board's approval, CDA Recreation Staff will submit the application to the HCF grant program by the June 15, 2023 due date. If awarded, staff will return to the Board to request approval to accept the grant funds and provide an additional update.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt the resolution to submit an application to the Habitat Conservation Fund grant program.

Item Initiated by: Erika Seward, Senior Administrative Analyst

Approved by: Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency Director