



**COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

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

MEETING DATE: September 27, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Brian Foss, Planning Director**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving a contract with Design Workshop, Inc. for the preparation of a Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan for a maximum amount of \$450,000 and approving the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the amount of \$250,000 and authorizing the Auditor-Controller to encumber the contract and directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the fiscal year 2022/23 Recreation budget. (4/5 Affirmative Vote Required)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Resolution establishing a contract with Design Workshop, Inc. for the preparation of a Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan and authorize the Auditor-Controller to release ARPA fund balance to amend the Recreation budget and encumber the contract.

FUNDING: The total contract amount is \$442,970 with a contingency of \$7,030 for a grand total of \$450,000. This contract will be funded using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds of \$250,000 and the approved Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant of \$200,000. Revenue and Expenses are in the FY2022/23 Recreation budget however a budget amendment is required to adjust account coding. There is no net change to budgeted revenue and expense and there is no impact to the General Fund.

ATTACHMENT: Resolution with Exhibits: Personal Services Contract (Scope of Services and Schedule of Compensation)

BACKGROUND: The County's role in Parks and Recreation has traditionally been to support independent Park and Recreation Districts formed by local constituents and

independent recreation providers through the AB1600 program, to pass-through State Per Capita grant funds to qualifying projects and to apply for other grants. These independent parks and recreation districts, along with the cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City, then assume responsibility for providing park and recreation facilities and services within their boundaries. The County does not own and operate park and recreation facilities outside of the Grass Valley Veteran's Hall and Tobiassen Park.

Past recreation planning efforts have been completed through the General Plan process and updates, individual park district plans, the Western Nevada County Non-Motorized Trails Master Plan, the Park and Recreation Facilities Fee Nexus Study, the Nevada County Active Transportation Plan, the South Yuba River Comprehensive Management Plan, and various other documents. The proposed Nevada County Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan will be the first comprehensive standalone plan in Nevada County's history.

Nevada County experienced a dramatic increase in people accessing open spaces in 2020 and 2021. Following the 2021 Board workshop, two *ad hoc* committees (Open Spaces and Trails; Organized Recreation) were created to focus on recreation needs, priorities, and opportunities. The work of the ad hoc committees, including clarifying the health and safety, economic, and resource conservation priorities, guided staff to propose that the Board of Supervisors adopt Recreation as a standalone objective for 2022 and to create a Recreation and Resilience Master Plan.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA") (H.R. 1319) is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package passed by Congress and signed by President Joseph Biden on March 11, 2021 in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic challenges.

On April 27, 2021, staff brought a preliminary ARPA Expenditure Plan to the Board for direction. The plan included a recommendation to allocate 30% of ARPA funds (\$5.8M) to "Community & Economic Resiliency" projects, with the caveat that Allocations to remain flexible to best support Board objectives. The preliminary plan was further refined after discussions at the 2022 Board Workshops added Recreation as an objective, ratified at the February 8 BOS regular meeting; which included additional funding (General Fund Economic Infrastructure Assignment dollars) augmenting the ARPA funds for recreation. A Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan was identified as a priority with a need for \$450,000 and an APRA allocation of \$250,000 was allocated during the 2022 Board Workshops and approved in the FY22-23 Recreation budget.

Nevada County issued a Request for Proposals on June 3, 2022, seeking a qualified firm to develop a Master Plan to identify and advance key goals and objectives to address challenges and opportunities for Nevada County's open space, trails and other recreational interfaces, and prioritize solutions that promote community health and safety, economic development, creative placemaking, landscape restoration, environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation, and resilience. In addition, the plan will offer strategies for implementing project recommendations, and describe a long-term vision for facilitating the management of open space and recreation resources. The planning process

will engage diverse partners including, but not limited to, public lands managers, nonprofit stakeholders, and user groups to plan, fund, and implement sustainable solutions. This Master Plan will support Goal 5.1 in the Nevada County 1995 General Plan.

A total of four (4) proposals were received as a result of the RFP. The proposals were reviewed and scored by a staff panel made up of representatives from the Planning Department, Recreation Senior Administrative Assistant, the Board of Supervisors Office and public members. Interviews were conducted with the top two scoring proposals. The panel scored the proposal from Design Workshop, Inc. the highest and is recommending that the Board of Supervisors approve a contract for Design Workshop, Inc. to complete the Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan. The contract amount is \$442,970 plus a contingency in the amount of \$7,030 for a total amount not to exceed \$450,000.

Approved by: Brian Foss, Planning Director