



COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
950 MAIDU AVENUE, NEVADA CITY, CA 95959-8617
(530) 265-1411 FAX (530) 265-9849 www.mynevadacounty.com

Sean Powers
Community Development Agency Director

Trisha Tillotson
Director of Public Works

File: 240.418 001

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: May 9, 2017
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Trisha Tillotson, Director of Public Works
SUBJECT: **Approval to Submit a Letter of Support for a California Fire Safe Council Grant Application from the Nevada County Fire Safe Council**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve letter supporting the Nevada County Fire Safe Council's application for a California Fire Safe Council Grant for Fire Hazard Reduction Along Major Nevada County Ingress/Egress Roads

FUNDING: If the Nevada County Fire Safe Council receives a California Fire Safe Council Grant of \$200,000, they plan to provide administrative services for the grant and provide the remaining \$170,000 of grant funds to Nevada County. Nevada County can match the grant funds using Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Highway User Tax Account (HUTA). Those funds are included in the FY 2017/2018 budget. Those funds along with the grant funds would allow completion of a more comprehensive and impactful roadside vegetation management program. Assuming the Fiscal Year 2017/2018 budget is approved as submitted, no budget amendment will be necessary and there is no impact on the General Fund.

BACKGROUND: Nevada County maintains approximately 560 miles of public roads. Vegetation management of 60 miles per year is budgeted for annually. Generally, County road crews have exceeded this number by hiring temporary employees and California Conservation Corps (CCC) crews to assist. Funding constraints and competing projects have limited the County's ability to hire temporary employees, and CCC crews are not as readily available for this type of work as they were in the past.

Fortunately, the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC), through a master grant from the U.S. Forest Service, is issuing subawards to successful applicants for wildfire prevention, including hazardous fuels reduction and maintenance projects on non-federal land. CFSC has approximately \$2 million available for 2017 wildfire prevention projects. There is a dollar for dollar or 50% cost share/match, which means the federal funding can account for up to 50% of the project's cost. The remaining 50% must come from non-federal sources. The maximum grant award is \$200,000 and the duration is 24 months. Additional information is available at <http://www.cafiresafecouncil.org/2017-grant-program/>.

The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County has offered to prepare a grant application and partner on a project to reduce hazardous fuels per the details in the attached grant proposal. Their application will be for \$200,000. If awarded, the Fire Safe Council would utilize 15% of the awarded grant funds for grant administration. The remaining \$170,000 would be used by Nevada County Public Works (assuming all parties can come to an agreement) in addition to \$200,000 of funds available in the budget to complete a more comprehensive and impactful roadside vegetation management program. Road locations would be major Nevada County publicly maintained roads selected by Nevada County staff with consultation with the Fire Safe Council and local fire agencies. Grant funds will allow additional work to be completed over and above the already planned and proposed to be budgeted work.

The attached letter of support, if approved, will be submitted along with the grant application. Also attached is a letter from Nevada County's 20 Firewise Communities and 18 in training.

Item Initiated and Approved by:

Trisha Tillotson, Director of Public Works

Submittal Date: April 24, 2017