



NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: December 5, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

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

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the contract between Sierra Streams Institute and the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services for the Sierra Foothill Forest Climate Resilience Project (WC-2340KM) in the amount of \$2,099,587.00 for use during the period October 3, 2023 through January 31, 2027, authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute the contract, and directs the Auditor Controller to amend the FY 2023/24 Emergency Services budget.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The Wildlife Conservation Board awarded \$2,396,000.00 in grant funds to the Office of Emergency Services (WC-2340KM). OES will contract with Sierra Streams Institute for an amount not to exceed \$2,099,587.00 which includes \$217,810.00 of contingency for use with proper justification and written permission from the Wildlife Conservation Board grant manager and a match requirement of in-kind match of \$23,654.00.

The Wildlife Conservation Board grant funds also include \$12,269.26 for Office of Emergency Services staff time to manage the grant and the project and funding for Indirect costs at 15% (\$284,100.00).

BACKGROUND: The County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services (OES) submitted a grant proposal to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) in partnership with local non-profit Sierra Streams Institute for the Sierra Foothill Forest Climate Resilience Project (SFFCRP), formerly referenced as the Jones Bar Forest Resilience Project, on February 15, 2023. Retroactive permission to apply for this grant was brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval on March 14, 2023 (No. 23-114). The Wildlife Conservation Board brought forward a recommendation to fund this project at their Board of Directors meeting on August 24, 2023. WCB subsequently issued a Notice to Proceed on October 3, 2023. OES brought this grant to the Board of Supervisors for fund acceptance on October 24, 2023 (No. 23-535).

The SFFCRP will improve forest health and reduce catastrophic wildfire risk using climate-smart management practices across multiple private and Federal parcels in Nevada City, California. The project area consists of a Firewise Community (Jones Bar), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, and three Outdoor Schools – each positioned within a priority location in Nevada County: (1)

Shady Creek (within the footprint of the proposed South Yuba Rim Shaded Fuel Break); (2) Nevada City School of the Arts (within the footprint of the Lobo Fire and also in the Deer Creek watershed); and (3) the Woolman School (in the Jones Fire footprint and within the South Yuba River watershed). These parcels are all located within a very high wildfire severity zone in the Sierra Nevada Foothills (CAL FIRE, 2022). This project is unique in its extensive incorporation of data for treatment strategy development and through inclusion of educational outreach in the form of prescribed burn training, offering tours of treated sites, and student vegetation research plots.

Nevada County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is in a unique position to be able to increase the pace and scale of wildfire mitigation in Nevada County by leveraging a cooperative partnership with Sierra Streams Institute, a Nevada City-based nonprofit established in 1995. Sierra Streams Institute has successfully developed the planning phase of this project via a previously funded project (WCB ID #2020121). The current grant (WC-2340KM) will fund implementation of wildfire mitigation activities including prescribed burning, mastication, hand thinning and chipping, and herbicide application over 625 acres of land under multiple landownerships designated as either high wildfire risk or wildfire recovery zones. OES will contract with Sierra Streams Institute to manage and execute this project. OES staff will administer the grant and support outreach and engagement activities including hosting project-specific “Virtual Office Hours,” coordinating project demonstrations, and attending Firewise Community Meetings.

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

Approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director, OES