



NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: August 8, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

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

SUBJECT: Resolution retroactively authorizing the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services to submit a grant application to the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for the *Prepare California Match: Lower Deer Creek – Penn Valley Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project* in a total amount not to exceed \$5M with no required match and authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute all additional documents required to fulfill the requirements of the grant application on behalf of the County of Nevada.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Under DR-4683 Cal OES issued a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) with a specific category for Wildfire and Vegetation Management Projects. Eligible projects under this NOFO were specified as those projects of a scale commiserate with an approximately \$5M budget. Since the proposed action will directly and primarily benefit eligible socially vulnerable and high hazard risk communities this project qualifies for submission as a Prepare California Match Project, whereby Prepare California Match can be used to meet HMGP's 25% non-federal (local) match requirement. If awarded, grant funds would be received into the OES budget and there would be no additional impact on the General Fund.

BACKGROUND: The *Prepare California Match Lower Deer Creek - Penn Valley Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project* is a Wildfire and Vegetation Management project that aims to reduce the risk of wildfire in heavily populated, socially vulnerable, and high hazard risk communities. This project is strategically located in the lower reach of the Deer Creek watershed in Nevada County, within one of the United States Forest Service's (USFS) top 10 priority fireheds for the Pacific Southwest Region. This area is covered by CAL FIRE Battalion 14, which since 1980 has had over 30 fires that exceeded 100 acres in size.

In sum, the project will serve to protect four communities housing over 15,000 residents, including the communities of North San Juan (Census Tract 06057000900), Penn Valley (Census Tract 06057000404), Rough and Ready (Census Tract 06057000404), and Lake Wildwood (Census Tract: 06057000401). North San Juan, Rough and Ready, and Penn Valley are all considered to be socially vulnerable.

The *Prepare California Match Lower Deer Creek - Penn Valley Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project* has been scoped as two 18-month phases. The implementation plan for Phase 1 is to conduct the necessary community outreach, technical planning, cost assessments, and environmental permitting to have a shovel-ready implementation project with an accurate budget and benefit/cost analysis at the end of 18 months. The planning area for the project is approximately 1,500 acres and a key step for the Phase 1 Mitigation Action will be to identify the appropriate treatment prescription that will protect critical infrastructure and vulnerable communities through deployment of nature-based solutions that will mitigate the risk of future devastating wildfires. The Phase 2 Mitigation Action (also 18-months) is to conduct the on-the-ground hazardous vegetation abatement actions that are identified through Phase 1.

Nevada County Office of Emergency Services (OES) submitted a Notice of Interest (NOI) to Cal OES for this project and funding opportunity on May 10, 2023. OES was subsequently notified that the NOI was reviewed by Cal OES staff and determined to represent an eligible HMGP activity. OES was formally invited to submit a full subapplication for consideration of HMGP funding by the deadline of August 4. Should FEMA HMGP funds be awarded, these would be brought to the Board of Supervisors for fund acceptance.

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

Approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director, OES