



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

MEETING DATE: August 22, 2023
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: **Craig Griesbach – Emergency Services**

SUBJECT: Resolution adopting additional Resolution language relating to approving the application for grant funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board (funder) for the Sierra Foothill Forest Climate Resilience Project.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution

FUNDING: Funding for the Sierra Foothill Forest Climate Resilience Project (SFFCRP) is in the amount of \$2,396,000 via a grant proposal to the Wildlife Conservation Board. This project does not require match however, project partner Sierra Streams Institute is providing voluntary match in the amount of \$83,691 comprised of Job Corps Intern, Student Labor, and Yuba Bear Burn Cooperative. County of Nevada is not providing match to this project. The budget includes funding for County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services Senior Admin. Analyst for Project and Grant Management (in the amount of \$6,549 plus benefits) and funding for Indirect costs at 15%.

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 is prepared to bring forward a recommendation to fund this project at their Board of Directors meeting on August 24, 2023. To do so, WCB requires that OES, as grant applicant, provide an approved and adopted resolution using the WCB agency-approved template.

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). This grant would 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 staff would administer the grant and support outreach and engagement activities including hosting project-specific “Virtual Office Hours,” coordinating project demonstrations, and attending Firewise Community Meetings. OES staff time for these activities has been included in the project budget. In addition, the project budget allows for OES to capture associated indirect costs of administering the project (at a rate of 15% of direct costs).

This Resolution has additional verbiage required by the Wildlife Conservation Board (funder) for the Sierra Foothill Forest Climate Resilience Project (SFFCRP) grant application. The additional Resolution language approves the filing of the application, compliance with appropriate laws and regulations, commits to terms and conditions of the grant agreement, and appoints the Director of the Office of Emergency Services as the representative to conduct all activities necessary for the completion of the project. The acceptance of the Wildlife Conservation Program grant award will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval per County Policy.

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

Approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director of Emergency Services