



NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: November 12, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

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

SUBJECT: Resolution accepting the USDA, United States Forest Service (USFS), Pacific Southwest Region, Fire and Aviation Management grant for the Critical Evacuation Route and Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program (24-DG-11052012-174) in the amount of \$750,000 with \$750,000 of in-kind match during the period August 29, 2024 through July 31, 2026, ratifying the execution of the Grant Agreement dated August 29, 2024, and authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute all additional documents required to fulfill the requirements of the grant on behalf of the County of Nevada.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The \$750,000 of grant funds will be received in the Office of Emergency Services budget. In-kind staff time match in the amount of \$210,000 will be provided by OES to support project management, grant administration, public outreach, and environmental compliance. Additional in-kind match in the amount of \$540,000 will be provided by entities receiving project funds under this program at a ratio of 1:1.

BACKGROUND:

Nevada County responded to the FY24 Federal Earmark Opportunities under the Appropriations Fund, Subcommittee on Interior and Environment: United States Forest Service – State and Private Forestry (Landscape Scale Restoration Program) on March 6, 2023. The County of Nevada Office of Emergency Services request for FY24 funds was subsequently approved as Congressionally Designated Community Project Funds. The County of Nevada submitted a Grant Packet to USDA, United States Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, Fire and Aviation Management, the administrating agency of these funds on June 5, 2024. On August 29, 2024, USDA, United States Forest Service (USFS), Pacific Southwest Region, Fire and Aviation Management awarded the grant for the Critical Evacuation Route and Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program (24-DG-11052012-174) to the County of Nevada.

The Critical Evacuation Route and Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program is consistent with the County Board of Supervisors Emergency Preparedness Objective,

further the goals of the CAL FIRE Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit Strategic Plan, confronts a hazard listed in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and advances priority actions identified through the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update.

The County of Nevada Critical Evacuation Route and Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program will build on and extend the previous Hazardous Debris Micro-Grant Program for Firewise Communities, which has twice awarded twenty-six \$3,600 micro-grants as a pilot scale approach to supporting communities in meeting their on-the-ground wildfire preparedness and mitigation needs. Like the Micro-Grant Program, the Critical Evacuation Route and Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program will place the responsibility of articulating recommended projects onto the community, however, unlike the Mico-Grant Program, County of Nevada will oversee executing the work by using qualified vendors procured in alignment with federal standards.

In sum, the program will direct funding toward approximately 59 vegetation abatement projects (valued at \$20,000 each) along private roads across the County. In so doing the program will directly confront critical ingress and egress issues on approximately 295 acres of what is typically the first leg of any resident's evacuation scenario (a private road).

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

Approved by: Craig Griesbach, Director, OES