



RESOLUTION No. _____

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM CAL FIRE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,536,477 FOR THE PONDEROSA WEST GRASS VALLEY DEFENSE ZONE PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES TO EXECUTE GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 5GG18114

WHEREAS, California experienced the most destructive wildfire season in State history in 2018, enduring over 7,600 wildfires that burned 1,846,445 acres in total; and

WHEREAS, the reality of climate change - persistent drought, warmer temperatures, and more severe winds - has created conditions that will lead to more frequent and destructive wildfires; and

WHEREAS, California arrived at our present emergency condition through the combined factors of fire exclusion, forest management policies that created overgrown and overcrowded forests, a rapidly changing climate, and a historic drought with accompanying bark beetle epidemics; and

WHEREAS, fuels reduction, which encompasses a range of forest management activities, including thinning, treating surface fuels with prescribed fire, mechanical methods, manual methods, and grazing, can reduce potential fire intensity; and

WHEREAS, a Priority A of the County of Nevada Board of Supervisors is to: Reduce the risk of local wildfire and the effects of wildfire on life, property and the environment by providing leadership and support to community partners, pursuing State and Federal funding, implementing county policies and programs, and assisting the public to be 'wildfire ready.'; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Emergency Services is responsible for preparing and mitigating wildfire hazards in the County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Nevada has a severe and present danger of wildfire presenting a threat to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) released Fire Prevention Grant Program funding to reduce the risk of wildland fires to habitable structures and communities, while maximizing carbon sequestration in healthy wildland habitat and minimizing the uncontrolled release of emissions emitted by wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the County of Nevada worked in collaboration with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, submitted a request for grant project tracking numbers, and was approved on November 14, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the County of Nevada applied for Project in CAL FIRE's 2018 California Climate Investment Fire Prevention Grant cycle with the objective of implementing a fuel management defense zone within the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone, which has been approved in the amount of \$2,536,477; and

WHEREAS, the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone consists of approximately 1,200 acres located just below Rough and Ready Highway and above McCourtney Road; and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2019, subsequent to the County's submission of its application for the CAL FIRE's 2018 California Climate Investment Fire Prevention Grant, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order N-05-19 to direct CAL FIRE, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to issue a 45-day Community Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation Report; and

WHEREAS, CAL FIRE published its Community Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation Report on March 22, 2019, which included the County of Nevada's Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Project as one of thirty-five priority projects to protect vulnerable Nevada County communities in furtherance of long-term wildfire prevention and forest health throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2019 Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California due to a vast-tree die-off throughout the state, which increased the risk of wildfires; and

WHEREAS, prior to the commencement of fuel reduction services pursuant to this Grant Agreement, County will comply with all applicable environmental review processes required under the California Environmental Quality Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada, State of California, that acceptance of grant agreement number 5GG18114 by Cal Fire for the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Project in the amount of \$2,536,477 for the term of July 9, 2019 through March 15, 2022 is hereby approved in substantially the same form attached hereto, and that the Director of Emergency Services may execute the Grant Agreement on behalf of the County of Nevada.

Funds to be deposited into revenue account: 0101-20702-414-1000/445200