



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

MEETING DATE: October 14, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Alex Keeble-Toll – Director of Emergency Services

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the contract between Mason, Bruce and Girard and the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services for the Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Phase 2 Project (CAL FIRE 5GA22209) in the amount of \$400,000.00 for use during the period September 11, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and authorizing the Director of Emergency Services or designee to execute the contract.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: CAL FIRE awarded \$3,914,536.64 in grant funds to the Office of Emergency Services (5GA22209) for the Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Phase 2 Project. OES will contract with Mason, Bruce and Girard for an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00 for environmental compliance and treatment design services. There is no match requirement. Revenue and expense estimates for FY 25/26 for this project were included in the adopted budget. No budget amendment is required at this time.

BACKGROUND: The *Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Phase 2 Project* leverages and extends the *Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Phase 1 Project* by providing funds to treat an additional 726 acres, bringing the total acreage of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 Woodpecker Ravine Projects to approximately 1,136 acres. A resolution was approved by the Board of Supervisors to apply for grant funds from CAL FIRE on March 14, 2023 (Res. 23-115) and subsequently to accept the awarded funds on October 24, 2023 (Res. 23-533).

The *Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Phase 2 Project* is located within high and very high fire hazard severity zones just southeast of Grass Valley and is identified as a top priority in the Nevada-Yuba-Placer (NEU) Strategic Plan. The area is flanked by critical evacuation corridors – State Highway 49 to the east and State Highway 174 to the north.

Roughly bounded by Rattlesnake, Lower Colfax, and Mount Olive Roads, the area has numerous homes located in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

This project will be a public private partnership between the landowners whose property will be treated, the County of Nevada, and CAL FIRE. The objective of the project is to remove hazardous vegetation along critical primary and secondary evacuation routes and strategic ridgelines to tie road system arteries into a wildfire defense zone.

The *Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Phase 2 Project* will build on the success of the Phase 1 Project, which is currently in the implementation phase, and will wrap-up March 15, 2026. To ensure continuity of project delivery, the grant proposal for Phase 2 explicitly stated the intent to utilize the same vendor(s) as were used for Phase 1.

Mason, Bruce and Girard were vendors for the Phase 1 Project that is currently underway. For Phase 2, Mason, Bruce and Girard will provide integrated environmental compliance and treatment design services, which includes landowner coordination and right-of-entry collection. The staff of Mason, Bruce and Girard have built excellent working relationships with residents in the project area and are familiar with the topography and vegetation present in the various neighborhoods where treatment is slated to take place.

OES will contract with Mason, Bruce and Girard for the services described above. OES staff will provide supportive project management and will administer the grant.

Item Initiated by: Alex Keeble-Toll, Director of Emergency Services

Approved by: Alex Keeble-Toll, Director of Emergency Services