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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: May 27th, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Alex Keeble-Toll – Director of Emergency Services**

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing environmental clearance for the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction project through the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CALVTP) Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), and directing the Director of Emergency Services to sign and file the Notice of Determination (NOD) for the project with the Nevada County Clerk Recorder's Office.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The Office of Emergency Services will pay for the recording fee of the NOD with the Nevada County Clerk Recorder's Office from their Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget. There is no budget amendment needed and no further impact on the General Fund.

BACKGROUND: The South Yuba Rim project area faces a severe and present threat from wildfire. In response to this threat, the Office of Emergency Services has applied for and received a grant award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct hazardous fuels reduction activities along evacuation routes and in strategic areas in the South Yuba Rim project area (Res. 24-155).

The planning phase of the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project is nearing completion. Planning has consisted of obtaining landowner permission to conduct treatments, designing treatments with a Registered Professional Forester, and obtaining environmental compliance with all applicable state and federal laws.

Nevada County OES has contracted with the Yuba Watershed Institute (Res. 24-156) to lead on the ground project activities, including achieving environmental compliance. Yuba Watershed Institute and their contracted firm, Ascent, are achieving environmental compliance for the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project through utilization of the CALVTP. The CALVTP was developed by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to provide local and state agencies with a powerful California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance tool to expedite the implementation of wildfire resilience projects. The

CALVTP includes a comprehensive Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) prepared in accordance with CEQA. The PEIR evaluates the environmental impacts of a wide range of vegetation treatment activities across the state and establishes a framework for lead agencies to achieve environmental compliance through a project-specific checklist process, rather than requiring a full EIR for each individual project.

Ascent has completed the required Project-Specific Analysis (PSA) and checklist documentation for the project, demonstrating consistency with the CALVTP and addressing site-specific environmental considerations. The Nevada County Planning Department has reviewed the CALVTP documentation prepared by Ascent and found them in accordance with CEQA.

In accordance with further CEQA requirements, a Notice of Determination (NOD) must be filed with the Nevada County Clerk Recorder's Office following Board approval. The NOD serves as a public notice of the County's determination that the project has been adequately analyzed under the CALVTP PEIR and that no additional environmental documentation is required. There is no required public comment period under the CALVTP. After Board approval, the PSA and associated addenda will be posted to the County website for public viewing and submitted to the State Clearinghouse and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. This resolution will authorize the Director of Emergency Services to sign and file the NOD for the South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project, allowing the County to proceed with implementation.

Item Initiated by: AJ Zekanoski, Administrative Analyst I**.**

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