



COUNTY OF NEVADA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: May 24, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Resolution approving a multi-year Professional Services Contract between the County of Nevada and Paragon Government Relations, Inc. for professional federal advocacy services from May 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024 for a maximum contract amount of \$151,834 and, amending the County Executive Office FY2021/22 budget in the amount of \$8,333.33 (4/5 affirmative vote required)

RECOMMENDATION:
Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING:
The action will impact the County Executive Office budget for FY2021/22 in the amount of \$8,333.33 to be funded by additional General Fund dollars. Subsequent FY2022/23 and FY2023/24 funds will be included in forthcoming budgets for those years.

BACKGROUND:
On May 1, 2021, the County executed a contract with Paragon Government Relations, Inc. ("Paragon") for federal advocacy services via Nevada County Purchasing Agency (PERS04227) in the amount of \$35,000, to increase the County's representation and advocacy of its interest to federal delegates, departments and agencies. The initial agreement provided the County with a limited scope of services that included resiliency, infrastructure, and health and human services. During such times, Paragon provided services that resulted in successful submission and approval of three congressional delegate designation funding and community project funding, guidance and support successfully advocating for expanded flexible guidelines of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, providing comprehensive weekly in-session federal legislative updates, and advising staff on legislative and regulatory issues, amongst other activities. Notably, through the assistance of the Board of Supervisors' Office and the direct work of Paragon, Nevada County received congressional directed funding for Community Project Funding in more

than \$6 million for the Nevada County Sheriff's Office Radio Infrastructure Project (\$4.8M), North San Juan Fire Suppression System Project (\$1.05M), and Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Fuels Reduction Project (\$750,000). Additionally, the County partners with the Town of Truckee on federal advocacy to promote shared priorities and regional synergies, and through a separate agreement the Town of Truckee contributes \$10,000 toward the Paragon contract cost.

With ongoing and increased federal funding and changes in federal legislation with impactful regulatory guidance, I recommend the Board adopt the attached Resolution for a contract to continue and strengthen our federal advocacy program to ensure adequate representation of the County's interests in Congress and federal departments and agencies that will contribute to the wellbeing of our residents and community. The contract includes a maximum contract amount not to exceed \$151,834 for the period from May 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024, with an option to renew for two additional years at the County's discretion (contract would be brought back to the Board for approval of additional years).

Initiated by: Jeffrey Thorsby, Senior Management Analyst

Approved by: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer