



**COUNTY OF NEVADA  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

950 MAIDU AVENUE, SUITE 170, NEVADA CITY, CA 95959-8617  
(530) 265-1222 ~ FAX (530) 478-5799 <http://mynevadacounty.com>  
Trisha Tillotson, Agency Director

Agricultural Commissioner

Building

Environmental Health

Farm Advisor

Planning

Public Works

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

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**MEETING DATE:** June 28, 2022

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency Director

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the amount of \$450,000 for the “Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund Grant” program and directing the auditor-controller to amend the Fiscal Year 2022/23 Recreation budget (4/5 affirmative vote required)

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the resolution.

**FUNDING:** The “Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund Grant” program (the “Program”), as presented to the Board at its January 2022 Retreat, is funded by \$400,000 of General Fund and \$450,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The Fiscal Year 2022/23 Recreation budget includes \$850,000 for the Program. However, the Board has not previously formally authorized the use of ARPA funds for this purpose. As such, a budget amendment is required to establish \$450,000 of that budget appropriation in the correct ARPA fund.

This resolution is contingent upon the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2022/23 budget. There is a net positive impact to the General Fund.

**BACKGROUND:** The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) (H.R. 1319) is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package passed by Congress and signed by President Joseph Biden on March 11, 2021 in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic challenges.

On April 27, 2021, staff brought a preliminary ARPA Expenditure Plan to the Board for direction. The plan included a recommendation to allocate 30% of ARPA funds (\$5.8M) to “Community & Economic Resiliency” projects, with the caveat that Allocations to remain flexible to best support Board objectives. This included one loan program and four grant programs, one of which is the Outdoor Recreation and Visitor Safety fund. The preliminary plan was further refined after discussions at the 2022 Board Workshops added Recreation as an objective, ratified at the February 8 BOS regular meeting; which included additional funding (General Fund Economic Infrastructure Assignment dollars) augmenting the ARPA funds for recreation.

<b>“Community &amp; Economic Resiliency” Programs</b>	<b>ARPA Amount:</b>	<b>Status:</b>
Nevada County Relief Fund	\$250,000	BOS approved 7/13/21; microgrants to small businesses managed by Sierra Business Council. Complete.
Community Resiliency Grants Program	Up to \$2 million allotted	BOS approved Awards 11/9/21. BOS approved \$1,991,884 in Round One; one contract could not move forward so a second RFP was released, augmented with other unexpended ARPA funds to total \$140,000. Awards for second round were approved at the 5/24 board meeting.
Resilience Loan Fund	\$250,000	Pending. For revolving loan fund to be managed by Sierra Business Council.
Economic Recovery Funds (infrastructure)	Up to \$2,300,000	Pending. For eligible infrastructure projects (water, sewer, broadband).
<b>Outdoor Recreation and Visitor Safety Funds</b>	\$450,000 (Update: Augmented with \$400,000 General Fund Economic Infrastructure Assignment dollars to total \$850,000; originally proposed \$800,000-\$1 million).	For improvements to major river crossings and trailheads impacted by increased visitation. The Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund RFP was released on March 10, 2022, with concept proposals due on March 31, 2022 and final proposals for those invited, on May 4, 2022. This is one of six proposed awards are being brought to the board on June 28, 2022, totaling \$361, 965, along with the three targeted trail ambassador grant award agreements which total \$43,205, will equal \$405,170 of the total.
Identified Recreation Priorities: Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan, Recreation Administration, Public Safety and Communications, River Parking Study	\$550,000 (Update: Specific recreation priorities, augmented with \$200,000 General Fund Economic Infrastructure Assignment dollars.	Priorities aligned with Board objectives were proposed at the 2022 Board Workshop along with the new objective which was adopted at the February 8, 2022 Board Meeting.
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$5.8 million*</b> ARPA/\$600,00 general fund	<i>*Allocations to remain flexible to best support Board objectives</i>

At its January 2022 retreat, the Board identified a new objective for 2022: “To promote sustainable recreation in partnership with community providers and other jurisdictions to enhance recreational access, support public health and safety, realize economic opportunities, and preserve natural resource assets” and later ratified at their regular meeting on February 8. The Board also supported six related specific initiatives, including to “Identify and implement strategies to promote health and safety at river crossings, lakes, trailheads, and other high-use or high-risk areas.” This initiative has been informed by the work of the South Yuba River Safety Cohort in Western Nevada County, and the Convene, Champion and Catalyze in Eastern Nevada County.

The Board also provided direction updating the preliminary plan above to identify \$450,000 in ARPA funding and \$400,000 in General Fund Economic Development Infrastructure Assignment funding for a total of \$850,000 in the Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund.

As with other Community & Economic Resiliency” projects, to promote transparency, quarterly reports from Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund Recipients will be posted on the County of Nevada’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) web page.

Recommended action:

Therefore, staff recommends the Board adopt the attached Resolution to amend the Fiscal Year 2022/23 Recreation budget, which will allow for the use of ARPA funds to award the grant and contract agreements to follow.

**Item Initiated by:** Ariel Lovett, Projects Administrator

**Approved by:** Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency Director