



**COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

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

MEETING DATE: June 28, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency Director

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the Grant Award Agreement with South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) for the River Ambassador Program for \$16,705 funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and authorizing the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute the agreement.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the resolution.

FUNDING: This grant award to South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) in the amount of \$16,705 will be funded through the Outdoor Recreation and Visitor Safety Funds (see table below) which is funded through Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars and General Fund Economic Infrastructure Assignment dollars. This project will be 100% funded by ARPA. There are no General Fund dollars used for this contract. An amendment to the 2022/2023 Recreation budget is presented under file ID SR 22-0786.

This award is one of three awards recommended to address immediate health and safety issues resulting from increased visitation to Nevada County's outdoor recreation assets related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

USE OF FUNDS: Since 2013, SYRCL's River Ambassador program has been identified as a crucial means to communicate river safety and etiquette to the growing number of visitors to the river. As more people flock to the Yuba for recreation, the community faces serious safety concerns, including increased fire danger, trash, feces, and broken glass.

By expanding the River Ambassador program SYRCL will be able to reach more visitors at more crossings. With funds detailed below, SYRCL will:

- Continue to station River Captains and Volunteer Ambassadors at Highway 49 and Bridgeport river crossings every weekend (plus the Fridays and Mondays of holiday weekends)

- Hire up to 2 additional River Captains and recruit an additional 50-75 volunteers that would allow expansion at Purdon and Edwards’ crossings (pending permission and ability to meet necessary volunteer requirements).
- Equip these extra crossings with supplies that range from dog waste bags to sunscreen to cigarette butt containers.
- Work with the County and Nevada Irrigation District (landowner) to explore potential for pilot River Ambassador outreach expansion to the Dog Bar Bridge area on the Bear River, as well as feasibility of installation of restroom facilities.
- Collaborate with County, Bear Yuba Land Trust, Truckee Trails Foundation, and other stakeholders to share successes and pitfalls about similar programs either established or in creation.

The following estimate includes River Captains’ hours at the river, River Captain and volunteer trainings, SYRCL staff program and project management and volunteer recruitment, background checks, mileage, and supplies.

Two River Captains + SYRCL Staff recruitment, collaboration, and management	\$13,631.50
Dog Bar: Pilot RA & Restroom Planning	\$1,747.50
Mileage	\$1,000
Background Checks	\$34
Supplies	\$292
TOTAL	\$16,705

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) augmenting the ARPA funds for recreation.

“Community & Economic Resiliency” Programs	ARPA Amount:	Status:
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).

Outdoor Recreation and Visitor Safety Funds	\$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. A competitive RFP is has been completed, with recommended awards to be brought to the June 28 BOS meeting. Three awards recommended in this staff report will be allocated from this fund.
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.
Total:	\$5.8 million* 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.

Staff are in process of administering Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund grants through a competitive process expected to total approximately \$362,000 in the first round.

This award, along with two others which will altogether total \$43,205, carry out the Board’s Recreation objective, immediately furthering the initiative to address health and safety at high-use, high-risk river crossings using funding designated to the Outdoor Recreation and Visitor Safety Fund.

Grant recipient will be required to submit quarterly reports beginning in September 2022.

Recommended action:

Staff recommends the Board adopt the attached Resolution approving the Grant Award Agreement with South Yuba River Citizens League and authorizing the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute the agreement.

Item Initiated by: Ariel Lovett, Project Administrator

Approved by: Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency Director