950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 210 Nevada City, CA 95959

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: February 28, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Nevada County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving the Purchase of a New Mail Sorter for the Elections

Office (4/5 affirmative vote required) and directing the Auditor-Controller

to amend the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Elections budget.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Resolution.

<u>FUNDING</u>: Funding for this purchase would be a combination of State funding and required County match. In 2019, the Elections department was awarded a California Secretary of State's Grant to reimburse the County of Nevada for voting system replacement activities. The grant provides a 3-to-1 match of County dollars. Total cost is \$324,074. The General Fund required to match State funds for this purchase would be \$81,019. A budget amendment is attached.

BACKGROUND:

The Office of the Nevada County Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters has seen a substantial increase in the number of voters choosing to cast their ballots by mail in recent elections. Since the adoption of the California Voter's Choice Act, between 90-94 percent of all returned ballots are submitted as vote-by-mail. Vote-by-mail processing requires our workers to sort tens of thousands of ballots by precinct in order to ensure an organized and efficient one percent manual tally of returns. The sorting process is manual. A one-time investment in Mail Sorter will help our office save time and staffing costs by automating the sorting process.

In collaboration with the Nevada County Purchasing Department, the Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters has identified a suitable Mail Sorter and expects that part of the purchase may be partially reimbursed with state funding via Standard Agreement 18G30129-02, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 12, 2022, Resolution #22-152. The purchase and installation of the new Mail Sorter requires the Board of Supervisors to approve this capital asset. The total cost is \$324,074.

Item Initiated by: Natalie Adona

Approved by: Natalie Adona

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Submittal Date: Revision Date: