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CALIFORNIA

## Information and General Services Agency

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

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**MEETING DATE:** January 23, 2024

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Craig Griesbach – Director of Emergency Services

**SUBJECT:** Resolution accepting the USDA, United States Forest Service (USFS), Pacific Southwest Region, Fire and Aviation Management grant for the Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update Project (23-DG-11052012-451) in the amount of \$250,000 during the period August 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024, ratifying the execution of the Grant Agreement dated August 28, 2023, and authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute all additional documents required to fulfill the requirements of the grant on behalf of the County of Nevada.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** The \$250,000 grant funds will be received in the Office of Emergency Services budget. This project requires match in the amount of \$90,800 which will be provided by CAL FIRE Grant #5GG21105/21-FP-SAC-1905 (No. 22-330). A budget amendment is not needed at this time and there is no further impact on the general fund.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a key planning tool to help prioritize wildfire mitigation action(s) to protect against loss of life and property. Community Wildfire Protection Plans should be updated periodically to reflect work that has been completed, and guide strategy for future work. Updated CWPP's serve as important documents for justifying projects proposed to funders as priorities within respective communities. The Nevada County CWPP was last updated in 2016.

The USDA FY22 Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) specifically included the update of Community Wildfire Protection Plans as a priority for funding. Furthermore, effective July 2022, the County of Nevada hired a Community Wildfire Coordinator uniquely qualified to support the development of an updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Nevada County OES responded to the CWDG NOFO on October 7, 2022 and learned on March 20, 2023 that the project was funded.

The Nevada County CWPP Update is a five-phase process consisting of (1) Community Outreach and Engagement, (2) a Wildfire Risk Assessment, (3) a Land Management Plan comprised of a suite of locally vetted treatment prescriptions for different land types, (4) a CWPP Document, and (5) an interactive Project Dashboard. Each of these components is designed to function as an independent resource and all components also integrate with one another so that entities interested in pursuing projects can easily reference and strategically plan for implementation of priorities using best management practices.

The Office of Emergency Services has taken on Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the CWPP Update; these processes were funded by a California Fire Safe Council Grant and led by the County Wildfire Coordinator. They were initiated in mid-2022 and wrapped up in December 2023.

Phase 3, Phase 4, and Phase 5 are funded under the USFS grant (23-DG-11052012-451). In May 2023, OES brought a contract with Dudek for the CWPP Document (Phase 4) to the Board for approval (No. 23-232) with the intent of using allocated General Fund as needed to initiate the CWPP effort prior to the USFS grant agreement being fully executed. Two additional contracts will be brought to the Board for approval in 2024 (for Phase 3 and Phase 5). The CAL FIRE funded Evacuation Study (No. 22-330) will serve as match to the USFS funded aspects of the CWPP Update.

The USFS grant agreement was approved on August 28, 2023 with pre-award costs approved as of August 1, 2023. However, a fully executed copy of the grant agreement was not provided to the Office of Emergency Services until December 21, 2023, thus the grant is being brought to the Board for fund acceptance at this time.

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update project is an integral component of the Nevada County Roadmap to Resilience, a holistic approach to all-hazards mitigation that includes the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update and the Evacuation Study.

**Item Initiated by:** Alex Keeble-Toll, Senior Administrative Analyst

**Approved by:** Craig Griesbach, Director of Emergency Services