



Information and General Services Department

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: July 9, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Steve Monaghan – IGS-Emergency Services**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving a contract between CAL FIRE and the County of Nevada for the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Project in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the period July 9, 2019 through December 31, 2020, authorizing the Director of Emergency Services to execute the contract, and amend the FY 19/20 Office of Emergency Services Budget (4/5 Affirmative Vote)

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution

FUNDING: Funding is through the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Project grant application to CAL FIRE's (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection) Fire Prevention Grant Program. Funds will be received into the Emergency Management budget and a budget amendment has been included for approval.

BACKGROUND: In December 2018, Nevada County submitted the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Project grant application to CAL FIRE's (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection) Fire Prevention Grant Program.

On January 8, 2019, Governor Newsom implemented Executive Order N-05-19, requiring CAL FIRE to, inter alia, determine which communities in California are at the greatest risk of wildfire, and directing CAL FIRE to issue a 45-day report with recommendations to prevent and mitigate wildfire to the greatest extent possible with an emphasis on environmental sustainability and public health. The CAL FIRE Community Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation Report, published on March 22, 2019, included 35 priority projects across the state which would immediately help reduce public safety risk in over 200 communities. Included in the list of priority projects was the County of Nevada's Project. On the same day, Governor Newsom Proclaimed a State of Emergency due to vast tree die off throughout the state, which has increased the risk of wildfires, which made funding available from the 2018-2019 Forest Health and Fire Prevention budget allocation to commence the Project, and ordered that the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection immediately begin to implement the identified priority fuel reduction projects. The Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone ("Project") was identified as one of the 35 priority projects.

The Project is the number one priority listed in Nevada County's most recent Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), a collaborative planning document developed by a cross-section of stakeholders in wildfire prevention. The primary goal of the CWPP is to protect human life, private property, essential infrastructure and natural resources.

The objective of the Project is to implement a shaded fuel management defense zone amongst homes and along roads, thinning trees, shrubs, brush and other vegetative growth. Sustainable forestry methods will be implemented to ensure that the fuel reduction treatment will result in remaining vegetation that is diverse in age, species, and size to ensure a healthy, defensible, self-sustaining landscape. Located just below Rough and Ready Highway and above McCourtney Road, this project will offer vital protection to the densely populated communities of Lake Wildwood, Penn Valley and Rough and Ready to the west, as well as the City of Grass Valley to the east. In addition, critical vegetation management will be achieved for a main evacuation artery, Highway 20.

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's March 22, 2019, Proclamation of a State Emergency, Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the California Public Resources Code and regulation adopted under that Division have been suspended for these priority fuels reduction projects. To ensure environmental protection when designing and constructing this fuels reduction project, the County and or its contractors will work to identify and avoid sensitive natural and archaeological resources.

This resolution approves the contract between Cal Fire and the County for work related to the Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone in the amount of \$1,000,000 for a term of July 9, 2019 through December 31, 2020 and requests authorization for the Director of Emergency Services to execute the contract. Contracts for the project will be brought before the Board for approval as they are awarded.

Item Initiated by: Jenn Tamo

Approved by: Steve Monaghan