



MEMORANDUM
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER &
SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors DATE: February 22, 2022

FROM: Kerri Timmer, Regional Forest Health Coordinator

SUBJECT: Ratification of grant application for Countywide Wildfire and Forest Resilience Plan & Project Pipeline Project

ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt a Resolution ratifying the submission of a grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant Program 2022 to receive \$740,000 for the Placer County Wildfire and Forest Resilience Plan & Project Pipeline project and authorizing the County Executive Officer and Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, or designees, subject to County Counsel and Risk Management concurrence, to execute any required documents or amendments necessary to complete the projects.

BACKGROUND

Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) manages a wildfire and forest resilience grant program funded by the FY 2021-22 State Budget to create more resilient forest landscapes, reduce wildfire risk, and accelerate recovery from recent wildfires. The governor’s Forest Management Task Force identified these as priorities in its publication, *California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan: A Comprehensive Strategy*.

The proposed Placer County Wildfire and Forest Resilience Plan & Project Pipeline project is being developed to address priorities of the Placer County Board of Supervisors for protecting residents, property, and resources from the risks of large, damaging wildfires, including:

- creation of a countywide forest health/wildfire resilience plan and investment strategy to identify and secure funding for high-priority forest health and wildfire risk reduction work
- develop a project pipeline for purposes of illustrating current and future needs, preparing funding requests, and tracking progress toward county, state, and federal goals.

The grant proposal would fund data collection, completion of a countywide risk assessment, development of a comprehensive plan and strategies for additional forest health and wildfire risk reduction activities throughout the county, and creation of a dynamic prioritized project list.

The assessment and planning effort will complement similar assessments and planning exercises currently taking place north and east of Placer County in the Middle Truckee River watershed, Lake Tahoe Basin, and Tahoe National Forest, each of which has a portion of Placer County included in it. The project will also address the identification and prioritization of additional forest health and fire risk reduction work in the Middle Fork American River watershed, for pursuit under the County’s Master Stewardship Agreement with the USDA Forest Service, as well as leveraging fuel reduction work that is already taking place around key communities along the I-80 corridor.

The application solicitation was released on January 3, 2022, with full proposals due by January 31, 2022. The full development of this new project idea and proposal combined with the very short application period did not give staff sufficient time to present this grant application to the Board prior

to the submission deadline. As a result, staff moved forward to meet SNC's deadline.

In order to move forward with critical forest health and wildfire resilience planning and project identification/development, staff recommends that your Board ratify submission of the grant application to the SNC Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience grant program to receive \$740,000 for the Placer County Wildfire and Forest Resilience Plan & Project Pipeline project and authorize the County Executive Officer and Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, or designees, subject to County Counsel and Risk Management concurrence, to execute any required documents or amendments necessary to complete the projects. If SNC awards the grant, work would start on or around July 1, 2022, and end by June 30, 2027.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Because this is a planning effort, there is no "project" to trigger California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15378 or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance. Individual projects that may be identified as a result of this planning effort would be subject to future environmental review and compliance before they could move forward.

FISCAL IMPACT

SNC's awarding of this grant would make funds available to support development of a dynamic, comprehensive risk assessment, plan, and project prioritization process across the County. Expenses incurred in the conduct of this work would be offset by this corresponding increase in revenue from the grant award. There is no specific match requirement. As a result, there is no fiscal impact on the County.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution

On file with Clerk of the Board:

SNC Grant Proposal for Placer County Wildfire and Forest Resilience Plan & Project Pipeline Project

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of:

A Resolution ratifying the submission of a grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire Recovery & Forest Resilience Grant Program 2022 for the Placer County Wildfire and Forest Resilience Plan & Project Pipeline and authorizing the County Executive Officer and Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, or designees, subject to County Counsel and Risk Management concurrence, to execute any required documents or amendments necessary to complete the projects.

Resolution No.: _____

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held February 22, 2022, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:

Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS funds were made available to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the planning and implementation of forest health projects that promote wildfire recovery and forest resilience; and

WHEREAS the County of Placer intends to create a countywide forest health/wildfire resilience plan, investment strategy, and project pipeline to identify and secure funding for high-priority forest health and wildfire risk reduction projects that protect residents, property, and resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, State of California, that the Board hereby:

1. Ratifies the filing of the grant application for funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Placer County Wildfire and Forest Resilience Plan & Project Pipeline; and
2. Certifies that said Applicant will comply with all federal, state and local environmental, public health, and other appropriate laws and regulations applicable to the project and will obtain or will ensure that the other project partners obtain all appropriate permits applicable to the project; and

3. Further commits to the terms and conditions specified in the grant agreement; and
4. Appoints Todd Leopold, County Executive Officer, and Josh Huntsinger, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, or designees, subject to County Counsel and Risk Management concurrence, to conduct negotiations, execute, submit and sign all documents including but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests, and other documents which may be necessary for the completion of the proposed projects.