

Staff Report

for the Board of Directors Meeting of September 12, 2018

TO: Honorable Board of Directors

FROM: Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager *GJ*

DATE: September 5, 2018

SUBJECT: Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Request for the Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment Phase 4 (Consent)

ADMINISTRATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 2018-21 - Approving the Application for Grant Funds for the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program, as recommended by the Administrative Practices Committee on September 4, 2018.

BACKGROUND:

Grant funds from the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program (Prop. 1 and Prop. 68) will help to significantly reduce catastrophic fire risk and improve forest health adjacent to Scotts Flat Reservoir by implementing fuels treatment practices and selectively thinning the forest community.

The Scotts Flat Fire Fuels Reduction Project Phase 4 is located on the north and east shores of the Scotts Flat Reservoir, near Nevada City in Nevada County. This storage reservoir is part of the Sierra Nevada headwaters and is integral to the water supply infrastructure that NID manages for communities in Nevada, Placer and Yuba Counties. The project will treat at least 300 acres and will significantly reduce catastrophic fire risk and promote healthy and functional forest and watershed conditions, improved carbon sequestration, and protection of an existing water storage facility. This project sits within a larger fuels reduction program aimed at significantly reducing fire risk in partnership with the Cascade Shores and Banner Mountain Firewise Communities, CAL FIRE, and expands the Nevada County Community Shaded Fuel Break.

The expected benefits of more intensive fuel reduction efforts include: increased resistance to catastrophic crown fires; retention and sequestration of carbon

through time; improved habitat conditions for plants and animals, and reduced risk of sedimentation and degradation of small creeks and the adjacent reservoir. This project will also complete a shaded fuel break around the reservoir, which will benefit local residential communities, and campground facilities in the case of a catastrophic wildfire. Education and outreach will promote community knowledge and participation in fire prevention programs.

This project will continue a 3-year focused effort to implement treatment practices to protect human life and property, essential infrastructure, forest ecosystem health and functionality, and security of watersheds and water storage for supply to California residents. Scotts Flat Reservoir and the adjacent communities are designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones by CAL FIRE, and continued treatment is warranted to reduce the risk to the area and to the critical infrastructure within it. Cascade Shores is now a certified Firewise Community that contains approximately 420 homes on 500 parcels, with approximately 1,000 residents. This area also abuts the Banner Mountain Firewise Community, and both will benefit from the proposed activities. Within the immediate area, infrastructure is well developed, with paved roads, municipal water supplies, fire hydrants, overhead power and communication lines, and a hydropower facility. Work will begin June 2019 and be completed in 2022.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Unknown. No grant match required, however grant points can be gained with in-kind time provided by District staff. Final budget under development, due to SNC on October 1, 2018.

Attachments (1):
Draft Resolution 2018-21



RESOLUTION No. 2018-21
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

**APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR
THE SIERRA NEVADA WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
(PROPOSITION 1 AND PROPOSITION 68) UNDER THE WATER QUALITY,
SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014, AND
CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL
PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS ACT OF 2018**

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program (Proposition 1 and Proposition 68); and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (the "SNC") has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of a portion of these funds through a local assistance grants program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the governing board of each applicant before submission of said application(s) to the SNC; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Irrigation District (the "District") has identified the Scotts Flat Reservoir Fuels Treatment – Phase 4 SNC Project #1054 (the "Project") as valuable toward meeting its mission and goals.

WHEREAS, the District intends to submit an application to SNC for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the District, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the SNC to carry out the Project; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District that it does find as follows:

1. The above recitals are true and correct.
2. Approves the submittal of an application for the Project.
3. Certifies that District understands the assurances and certification requirements in the application.

4. Certifies that District will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the resource(s) consistent with the long-term benefits described in support of the application; or will secure the resources to do so.
5. Certifies that District will comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process.
6. Appoints its General Manager, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to: applications, agreements, payment requests, and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District at a regular meeting held on the 12th day of September 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: Directors:

NOES: Directors:

ABSENT: Directors:

ABSTAINS: Directors:

President of the Board of Directors

Attest:

Board Secretary