



County of Sonoma
State of California

ATTEST:

Item Number:

Resolution Number:

Date: May 3, 2022

4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California
Authorizing the Execution of Grant Agreements for the Federal Emergency
Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Administered by the
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.**

Whereas, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides funding to state and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a Major Disaster declaration to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters, as authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; and

Whereas, in California, the HMGP program is administered by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES); and

Whereas, the goal of the HMGP is to develop mitigation measures to be implemented during the recovery from a disaster; and

Whereas, proposals submitted under the HMGP must involve projects that reduce or eliminate losses from future disasters and provide a long-term solution; and

Whereas, the County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors adopted a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan on April 25, 2017, and this plan was approved by FEMA on May 4, 2017; and

Whereas, the County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors and the Sonoma County authorized applications for HMGP grant funding on February 2, 2018; and

Whereas, the local match for HMGP projects is 25% of total project costs and the Board of Supervisors reserved sufficient funds for this cost share; and

Whereas, FEMA notified Cal OES and Sonoma County of the intent to award additional funding to expand the number of project areas in the previously awarded Wildfire Adapted Sonoma County Part 1 HMGP grant in a new grant titled "Wildfire Adapted Part 2"; and

Whereas, the new awarded HMGP grant is titled Wildfire Adapted Part 2 (5293-PJ0057) and unless extension is duly granted, the project must be completed on or before July 26, 2023; and

Whereas, the purpose of the Wildfire Adapted grants (Part 1 and Part 2) is to mitigate wildfire risks to homes, lives and property in Sonoma County. Permit Sonoma Fire Prevention Division will implement a "house-outward" mitigation approach that addresses the vegetation within 100 feet of structures through Defensible Space assessments, and provide voluntary structure hardening assessments that will inform residents of high benefit defensible space and/or structural retrofit activities that could reduce the ignitability of structures.

Whereas, Wildfire Adapted Part 2 (5293-0057) expands on Wildfire Adapted Part 1 (4344-0701), by adding new treatment areas and will utilize materials, systems and procedures developed Wildfire Adapted Part 1, increasing the investment-to-acres-treated ratio; and

Whereas, FEMA has required that the Wildfire Adapted projects (both Part 1 and Part 2) be divided into two phases, a planning/assessment phase and an implementation phase, with the release of funds by FEMA for the second phase[←CR) 2nd phase of both Part 1 and 2?] contingent on successful completion of the first phase; and

Whereas, the project cost for Phase 1 of Wildfire Adapted Part 2 Phase 1 is \$369,089.80, with a federal share of \$276,817.35 and a local cost share of \$92,272.50; and

Whereas, the project cost for the subsequent implementation phase (Phase 2) of Wildfire Adapted Part 2 is expected to be approximately \$2,500,000 with the final amount determined in a revised Benefit-Cost Analysis submitted [CR) submitted to whom?]at the end of Phase 1; and

Whereas, FEMA has stated that its election to fund Phase 1 of this grants is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as an action that is categorically excluded (CE) from the need to prepare either an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement; and

Whereas, the Scope of Work of the grant requires that every parcel in the project areas [CR] what or where are the project areas?] (approximately 1,650) receive a defensible space assessment [CR] assessment completed by whom?] and the residences be provided with the assessment report; and

Whereas, the Scope of Work of the grant provides funds to perform approximately 500 structure hardening assessment that residents can request voluntarily on a first come, first served basis; and

Whereas, the Scope of Work for the grants requires a robust public outreach effort with multiple community meetings in each project area, direct mailings (in English and Spanish) to all residents in the project areas;

Whereas, residents will be notified in all public outreach communications that they can sign up for bilingual e-mail notices of project status and next steps; and

Whereas, residents can apply to enroll in the incentive cost-share program of Phase 2 of the grant on a first come/first serve basis (based on date and time of application submittal) with funds allocated proportionally by project area; and

Whereas, after the completion of Phase 1 of the project and the release by FEMA of funds for the Phase 2 cost-share program, all residents will be notified again by bilingual direct mail, and if they have provided an e-mail address, by e-mail, and by additional public meetings, of how to apply for the cost-share program and the when the application period will open and close; and

Whereas, the Wildfire Adapted Part 2 project is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15301 (Maintenance) and/or 15304 (Minor Alteration to Land); and

Whereas, the County of Sonoma will coordinate with FEMA staff and the California Office of Emergency Services in undertaking the awarded grant project to completion.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors:

1. **Authorizes** the execution of the grant agreement between the County of Sonoma and Cal OES for the Wildfire Adapted Part 2 Project.
2. **Authorizes** the Director of the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department to act as the County's agent to conduct all negotiations and to execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to applications, agreements, and payment requests that may be necessary to complete the grant for Wildfire Adapted Part 2 Phase 1 grant award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.
3. **Be It Further Resolved**, the Board of Supervisors designates the Clerk of the Board as the custodian of the documents and other materials, which constitute the record of proceedings upon

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which the decision herein is based. These documents may be found at the office of the Clerk of the Board, 575 Administration Drive, Room 100-A, Santa Rosa, California 95403.

Supervisors:

Gorin:

Coursey:

Rabbitt:

Hopkins:

Gore:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.