

Item # 11B

**City of Carson City
Agenda Report**

Date Submitted: 7/27/04

Agenda Date Requested: 8/5/04
Time Requested: 10 Minutes

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Linda Ritter, City Manager

Subject Title: Approval of a grant award to the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension for work related to rehabilitation efforts associated with the Waterfall Fire.

Staff Summary: Cooperative Extension has been identified as the lead agency in providing advise and consultation services to private property owners affected by the Waterfall Fire. This grant award sets out the work Cooperative Extension will provide to our residents and includes development of treatment prescriptions for rehabilitation, analysis of damaged vegetation, creation of fuel breaks as part of burn rehabilitation, facilitation of development of Nevada Fire Safe Council Chapters, organization of volunteer efforts, facilitation of educational opportunities, and development of necessary educational materials.

Type of Action Requested: (check one)
 Resolution Ordinance
 Formal Action/Motion Other (Specify) Presentation Only

Does This Action Require A Business Impact Statement: Yes No

Recommended Board Action: I move to approve a grant award to the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension for work related to rehabilitation efforts associated with the Waterfall Fire.

Explanation for Recommended Board Action: Many private property owners were affected by the Waterfall Fire. This grant to Cooperative Extension will give them the resources needed to coordinate rehabilitation efforts of private property owners and provide important educational information related to rehabilitation and future opportunities for creating defensible space. The Grant Proposal includes short-term, mid-term and long range impacts that can be expected as a result of the program. All of these can provide tremendous benefits to Carson City and its residents.

Applicable Statue, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation: N/A

Fiscal Impact: Grant not to exceed \$196,296 for a two-year period beginning August 5, 2004.

Explanation of Impact: This grant will fund two positions - a volunteer coordinator and community-based instructor plus materials and supplies.

Funding Source: Waterfall Fire Rehabilitation Fund

Alternatives: Award the grant for a one year period and allow for possible extension at the end of the first year.

Supporting Material: Grant Award

Prepared By: Linda Ritter, City Manager

Reviewed By: _____ Date: _____
(Department Head) *L. Ritter* _____ Date: 7/27/04
(City Manager) *Melanie Burkett* _____ Date: 7-27-04
(District Attorney) *J. Minton* _____ Date: 7/27/04
(Finance Director)

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nay
2) _____

(Vote Recorded By)

**Consolidated Municipality of Carson City
Notice of Grant Award**

Project Name: Waterfall Fire Education Project

Grantee Name and Address: University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
2621 Northgate Lane, Suite 15
Carson City, NV

Grant Amount: Not to exceed \$222,750

Grant Period: August 5, 2004 – August 5, 2006

Project Manager: JoAnne Skelly, Extension Educator

Project Description:

Situation:

The Waterfall Fire damage to the watershed, property, homes, and landscapes has created a demand for information and expertise. Carson City must respond to the following challenges:

- Restoring and protecting the watershed
- Minimizing accelerated erosion
- Mitigating ash and dust
- Determining dead and dying plants from potential survivors for property owners
- Responding to property owners requests for information
- Coordinating a revegetation plan across public and private lands
- Preventing bark beetles and noxious weeds
- Implementing defensible space practices to increase home and property survivability
- Answering the requests to volunteer

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension can address a number of these concerns.

Proposed Components of the Project:

- Assess affected homeowners needs through a survey.
- Respond to individual homeowners' requests for determination of tree and shrub survival with site visits.
- Assemble and lead an interagency task force to develop prescriptions for and with small acreage homeowners to implement on their property that complement public land prescriptions. This would accomplish erosion, ash, and dust mitigation and reduce the threat to the watershed; meet property owners' needs to restore the burnt lands around them; and reduce costs to property owners through coordination of seeding efforts across the entire burn area in the wildland/urban interface.

- Provide Cooperative Extension Expertise to Carson City to create fuel breaks in the wildland/urban interface and educate and enlist cooperation of small acreage homeowners.
- Facilitate Nevada Fire Safe Council Chapter development in Waterfall fire affected neighborhoods and other high wildfire hazard areas in Carson City. This will increase property owners' ability to acquire funds to do fuels mitigation in their neighborhoods. It will increase their awareness of how they can impact the survivability of their neighborhood.
- Build, manage, monitor, and evaluate a volunteer component that involves training in creating survivable/defensible space, firescaping, revegetation, erosion control, noxious weed identification, and resource assistance. Volunteers would assist homeowners with recovery operations. They would do onsite visits and evaluations. They would respond to questions with research-based information.
- Actively promote and deliver the *Living with Fire* program to home and property owners.
- Teach the following classes:
 - Firescaping
 - Erosion Control
 - Revegetation Techniques
 - Water-Efficient Landscaping
 - Bark Beetle and Pest Management
 - Weed Control
 - Proper Pruning and Maintenance
- Develop necessary and responsive publications to meet community needs. Distribute in print and through the Web.
- Develop a fire-impact list-serve to keep participants informed of information, and resources available.
- Work with the City to ensure that the necessary materials for restoration (i.e. seed, straw, seeding equipment, erosion control materials, etc.) are readily available to homeowners.
- Evaluate program impacts in all areas

Short-Term Impacts:

- Homeowners immediate need for determination of tree and shrub survival met
- Timely publications developed and delivered
- Accelerated erosion slowed
- Fuel breaks installed
- Fire Safe Council Chapters formed
- People motivated to implement defensible space on a neighborhood/community level

Mid-term Impacts:

- Vegetation returns across Waterfall fire area
- Homeowners property restored in a more fire-safe manner
- Cooperation fostered between agencies and private sector to accomplish community wide goals
- Policies developed to improve fire safety of community
- Defensible space implemented

Long-term impacts:

- Carson City is a model community for wildfire safety
- Environmental restoration complete
- Watershed healthier

Proposed Timeline: 2 yearsPROPOSED BUDGET

YEAR 1 YEAR 2

Staffing requirements: (expertise required of positions increased salary)

- | | | |
|--|----------|----------|
| • Volunteer Coordinator - 1 FTE
salary \$35,000 + benefits \$14,000 = \$49,000
(Second year COLA/Merit increase required) | \$49,000 | \$53,000 |
| • Community Based Instructor – 1 FTE
salary \$35,000 + benefits \$14,000 = \$49,000
(Second year COLA/Merit increase required) | \$49,000 | |
| • Subcontractors | \$15,000 | |

Equipment: (approximate)

- | | | |
|---------------|----------|--|
| • 2 computers | \$ 4,500 | |
|---------------|----------|--|

Revegetation Supplies

\$15,000 \$ 5,000

Travel Allowance: (approximate)

- | | | |
|--|----------|----------|
| • 10 miles per day at \$0.38 @ 22 days/mo. x 24 months x 2 | \$ 2,000 | \$ 2,000 |
| • Specialist's travel 120 miles per visit x \$0.38 x 20 visits | \$ 500 | \$ 500 |

Printing and Layout: misc publications to be identified

\$ 5,000

Postage

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|
| • Surveys | | |
| • Follow-up assessments | | |
| • Mailing of misc information | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 |

Subtotal:		\$141,000	\$ 61,500
<u>Indirect Costs:</u> (10% allowed by City)		\$ 14,100	\$ 6,150
<u>Proposed Project Cost</u>	(\$222,750)	\$155,100	\$67,650

** The Budget is merely an estimate of program costs per year. Actual line-item expenses may differ from those listed above based upon program demand and timing. Actual total expenses may not exceed the total proposed project costs listed above.

IN ACCEPTING THESE FUNDS, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT:

- 1. This award is subject to the availability of appropriate funds.*
- 2. Recipient of these funds understands that this is a reimbursement grant and that claims for reimbursement shall be submitted at least monthly.*
- 3. A report of program activities and accomplishments must be submitted to the City Managers Office at least monthly.*

For University of Nevada, Cooperative Extension:

JoAnne Skelly, Extension Educator

Date

For Carson City:

Mayor Ray Masayko

Date