

Staff Report

for the Board of Directors Meeting of September 25, 2019

TO: Honorable Board of Directors

FROM: Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager *GJ*
Neysa King, Environmental Resources Administrator

DATE: September 18, 2019

SUBJECT: **Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Application for the Wildfire Prevention, Water Supply and Healthy Forests Protection Project (Consent)**

ADMINISTRATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution No. 2019-28 - 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 in the amount of \$560,000, for the Nevada Irrigation District Wildfire Prevention, Water Supply and Healthy Forests Protection Project.

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 Rollins Reservoir by implementing fuels treatment practices and selectively thinning the forest community. SNC (Sierra Nevada Conservancy) had received significant funding that they are releasing on an expedited schedule to address the critical forest health and fire risk conditions of the Sierra Nevada region. NID submitted a pre-application on 8/1/2019 and was invited to submit a full proposal on 9/4/2019. Applications are due on 10/14/2019. On 9/10/2019 staff met SNC representatives in the field to walk each of the treatment areas and to fine tune the scope of work for this proposal.

Project Location:

Rollins Reservoir and adjacent District owned properties including parcels associated with Long Ravine, Orchard Springs and Greenhorn Campgrounds, and the Rollins Hydroelectric Powerhouse, approximately 185 acres.

Timeline:

June 2020 – December 2022 (approximately 2.5 years)

Project objectives:

This project will treat high priority, forested, critical infrastructure and water system zones that have been identified by Nevada Irrigation District within its jurisdictional authority, spanning portions of Nevada and Placer Counties. These zones are made up of several sites and include high use properties and campgrounds at Rollins Reservoir.

By treating 185 acres, NID will achieve the following objectives: improved protection and creation of buffers for forest health in treated mixed conifer, mid-elevation areas, expansion of strategic defensible space for protection of critical structures from wildland fire, protection of water storage reservoirs and water system infrastructure for community and first response needs, and reduction of fire hazard associated with campgrounds and residential communities within the wildland-urban interface.

Using mixed forest treatment practices (mastication and/or hand-crews and chipping), NID will reduce the density of trees and shrubs to decrease fire danger in these priority zones by removing ladder fuels that are 10-inches or less DBH (Diameter at Breast Height), and hazard trees as necessary. These treatment zones will safeguard and reduce ignition potential and wildfire risks and will protect critical water and power systems that sustain thousands of community residents.

This project will focus treatment on priority, highest risk fire-prone zones to provide strategic protection of forests and critical infrastructure while tying into existing fuel breaks. Natural resources will be better protected and managed, and benefits will extend to neighboring communities that live adjacent to treatment areas or depend on critical water and power resources provided by the Nevada Irrigation District and wildfire responders.

Project areas Rollins Reservoir will be thinned to provide a more resilient, thriving forest ecosystem that can sequester carbon at elevated rates, while preventing large-scale wildfire and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

NID has recently partnered with CAL FIRE and received over \$120,000 through their California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) to remove hazardous fire fuels at Peninsula Campground, north of Long Ravine Campground on the shores of Rollins Reservoir. To continue efforts to improve the safety and health of the watershed and forested lands around the reservoir, NID is expanding forest management projects to include the other District-owned campgrounds.

This item is in alignment with Goal No. 1 of the District's Strategic Plan through the continued health of the of our watershed resources.

This item is in alignment with Goal No. 2 of the District's Strategic Plan through appropriate stewardship of District resources.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Estimated NID cost share staff time and materials at \$80,000 (grant administration, project management, community outreach and interpretation signs). The estimated SNC grant request grant is to be \$560,000 (RPF forestry support, timber operator handcrews and mastication to treat 185 acres). The final budget is still under development and due to SNC on October 11, 2019

Attachments (2):

- Resolution No. 2019-28 - Application for Grant Funds for the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program
- Project Map



RESOLUTION NO. 2019-28

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 Wildfire Prevention, Water Supply and Healthy Forests Protection Project SNC Grant # 1249 (the "Project") as valuable toward meeting its mission and goals; and

WHEREAS, the Project is located on District owned properties at Rollins Reservoir (Placer and Nevada Counties) including parcels associated with Long Ravine, Orchard Springs and Greenhorn Campgrounds, and the Rollins Hydroelectric Powerhouse, approximately 185 acres; and

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 Wildfire Prevention, Water Supply and Healthy Forests Protection Project SNC Grant # 1249.
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).

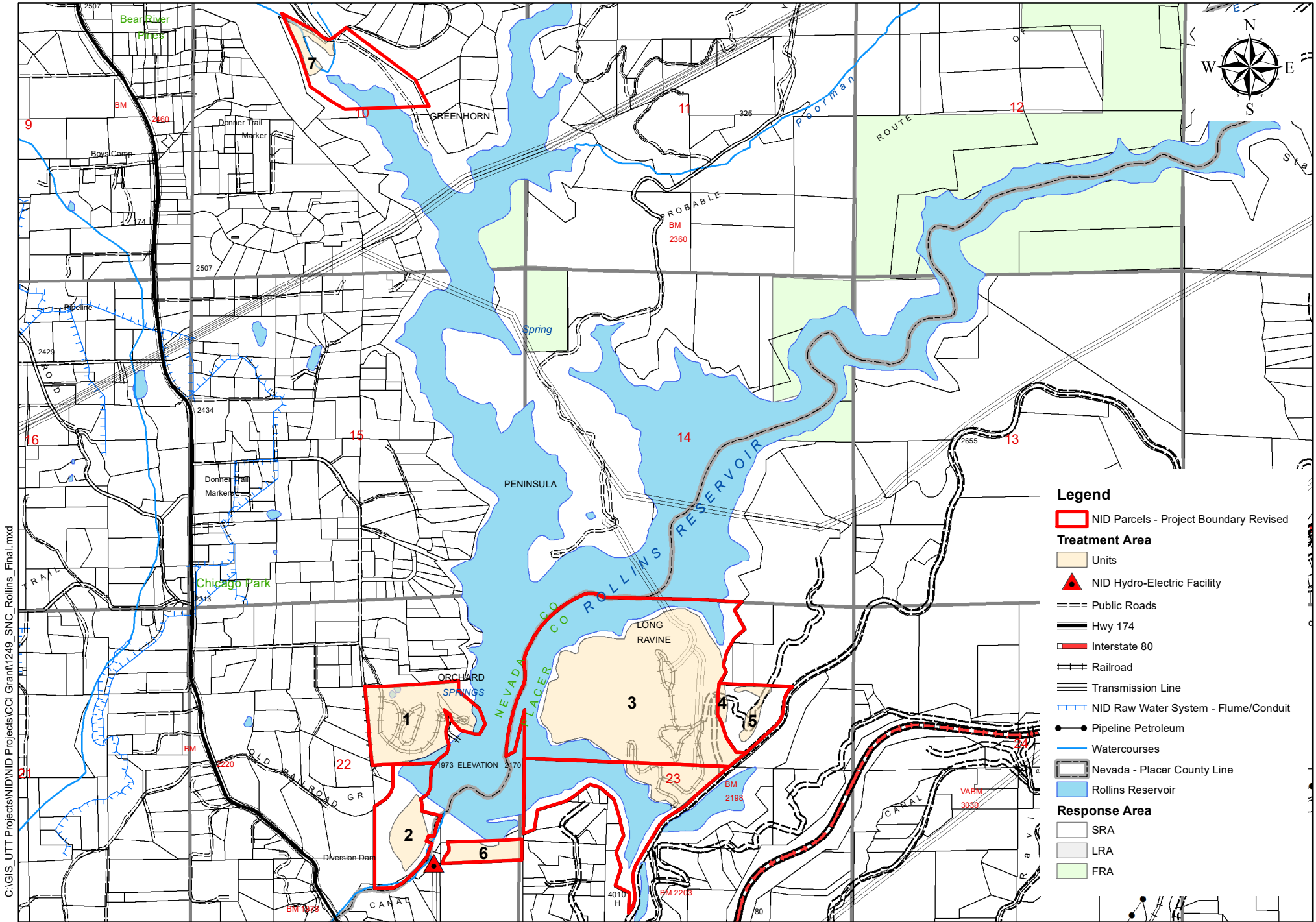
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District at a regular meeting held on the 25th day of September, 2019 by the following vote:

AYES:	Directors:
NOES:	Directors:
ABSENT:	Directors:
ABSTAINS:	Directors:

President of the Board of Directors

Attest:

Secretary to the Board of Directors



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- Legend**
- NID Parcels - Project Boundary Revised
 - Treatment Area**
 - Units
 - ▲ NID Hydro-Electric Facility
 - Public Roads
 - Hwy 174
 - Interstate 80
 - Railroad
 - Transmission Line
 - NID Raw Water System - Flume/Conduit
 - Pipeline Petroleum
 - Watercourses
 - Nevada - Placer County Line
 - Rollins Reservoir
 - Response Area**
 - SRA
 - LRA
 - FRA

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
 NEVADA COUNTY -- PLACER COUNTY
 GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

**1249-SNC Forest Health
 Rollins Reservoir Unit**

Drawn By: KW Date: 9/5/2019 Scale: 1:24,000 Sheet: 1 of 1