

Staff Report

TO: Board of Directors

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

DATE: Sept. 9, 2026

SUBJECT: Contract Award for South Yuba Canal Hazard Tree and
Wildfire Defense Project (CIP Project No. G0007) (Consent)

ADMINISTRATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution approving a contract to Frank Dial Logging for \$468,000 for Phase 1 of the South Yuba Canal Hazard Tree and Wildfire Defense Project (No. G0007) and authorize the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents.

BACKGROUND:

On Jan. 30, 2026, NID executed Grant Agreement 5GG25125 with CALFIRE in the amount of \$615,000 to complete the South Yuba Canal Hazard Tree and Wildfire Defense Project (Project #G0007).

This project will remove hazardous trees and dense ladder fuels to reduce wildfire risk along 58 acres, or 2.5 miles, of the South Yuba Canal immediately upstream and downstream of the Highway 20 crossing. This project is divided into two phases: Phase 1 is west of Highway 20 and anticipated to be completed in 2026, and Phase 2 is east of Highway 20 and anticipated to be completed in 2027. Both phases are included in the total grant funding and project footprint.

The project will remove all vegetation within 25 ft. of the canal. From 25 ft. to 100 ft. of the canal all 0-14' diameter trees will be removed to create a shaded fuel break. The contractor will use mechanical methods including hand crews, felling, feller-buncher, mastication, sawyers, and heavy equipment. Additionally, trees with strike potential beyond 100 ft. of the canal will be removed to prevent potential damage should they fall.

In April 2026, NID contracted with Mason Bruce and Girard (MBG) to provide Professional Forestry Services to design the overall project. MBG developed the treatment protocols, prepared the project area, designed the treatment scope, prepared the necessary permits, and will assist in overseeing project implementation.

The project permits have been obtained, the project boundary is marked, all sensitive features are flagged for protection, and all hazardous trees have been painted to guide the contractor during implementation.

This project area is within NID's easement of the South Yuba Canal and is located on portions of District owned property, private, public and federal lands. Staff has coordinated with all landowners to obtain permission to implement the project on their land and to remove 692 trees that are 10 in in diameter or larger. All merchantable timber removed from the project area will be merchandised if possible, and property owners have released their timber to the project, which has helped offset implementation costs.

CONTRACT PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

NID released a Request for Proposals to seven (7) potential bidders on July 23, 2026, and we have received 4 proposals for the Phase 1 work. These bids include a variety of methods to achieve the contract goals, and in some cases, involve multiple subcontractors. The bids are as follows:

Contractor	Per Tree Rate	Per Acre Rate	FINAL Total Bid Amount
Frank Dial Logging	\$480	\$3,840	\$445,440
Jensen's Tree Care	\$750	\$2,450	\$591,275
Mountain F Enterprises	\$815	\$5,000	\$711,480
Yuba Forest Restoration	\$220	\$4,257	\$278,342

This project demands an exceptionally high level of skill, precision, and experience in tree felling and equipment operation, with very little margin for error. The confined, complex work area requires careful planning, precise execution, and the ability to safely manage significant risks adjacent to the South Yuba Canal.

After reviewing all proposals received, staff recommend contracting with Frank Dial Logging for this Phase 1 project work. Although not the lowest total bid, Frank Dial Logging's proven performance working at other District facilities demonstrates the specialized expertise and capability required to successfully perform this work within such a narrow and challenging footprint. Dial's methodology and experience have proven his ability to complete the project scope on budget and on schedule.

In evaluating the two lowest bids, staff identified several concerns regarding the feasibility, safety, and likelihood of successful project completion under the lowest bidder's proposed approach. First, the lowest bidder proposes utilizing four subcontractors, including two firms with which the District has no prior experience. This approach may introduce additional coordination and project management challenges that could affect the District's ability to ensure consistent performance, safety, and timely completion.

Second, the lowest bidder proposes using a crane to transport hazard trees over the canal. This method presents additional and ongoing safety risks and

operational complexities that would need to be carefully managed to protect workers, equipment, canal infrastructure, and the surrounding area.

Finally, the lowest bidder acknowledges that certain areas are beyond the reach of the proposed equipment and has indicated that complete cleanup of all acres may not be achievable under its proposed approach. This limitation creates a concern regarding the bidder's ability to fully meet the project requirements and achieve the District's desired outcome.

Frank Dial Logging, the second lowest bidder, proposes removing all hazard trees and processing in a way that will avoid craning unless absolutely necessary due to condition of tree, and commits to full clean-up of all acres. In summary, staff's concerns about the lowest bidder's ability to safely, efficiently, and successfully complete the full scope of work have informed the recommendation to award this Phase 1 work to Frank Dial Logging.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

NID has received \$615,000 in grant funding from CALFIRE for this total project (both Phase 1 and Phase 2). NID will provide an additional \$120,000 in in-kind support and \$282,000 in cash match, with a total project budget of \$1,017,000. This project is expected to take two seasons to complete. Below is a table showing the total and per phase, budget and funding source:

South Yuba Canal Wildfire Defense Project	Grant Funding	NID cash match	NID in-kind staff	Total Project Budget	Phase 1	Phase 2
Consultants (MBG- Forester/Archaeologist)	\$ 35,000	\$ 50,000		\$ 85,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 25,000
Contractor (Fuels Reduction/Hazard Trees)	\$ 580,000	\$ 232,000		\$ 812,000	\$ 486,000	\$ 326,000
NID Grant Admin. & Project Management	\$ -		\$120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 50,000
TOTAL:	\$615,000	\$282,000	\$120,000	\$1,017,000	\$ 616,000	\$ 401,000

This contract authorization will pay a maximum of \$468,000. In 2027 we have budgeted for the remaining project funds. Phase 1 is currently approved in the 2026 CIP No. G0007 and no additional budget amendments are necessary. Staff recommends adding a 5% contingency to the contractor bid amount to account for unexpected expenses, for a 2026 Phase I implementation contract of NTE \$468,000.

Attachments (3)

- Resolution No. 2026-34
- Project Map
- Project Photos



RESOLUTION NO. 2026-34
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Contract Award for South Yuba Canal Hazard Tree and Wildfire Defense Project
(Project No. G0007)

WHEREAS, On Jan. 30, 2026, NID executed Grant Agreement 5GG25125 with CALFIRE in the amount of \$615,000 to complete the South Yuba Canal Hazard Tree and Wildfire Defense Project (Project #G0007); and

WHEREAS, On February 11, 2026, NID added \$875,000 to Fund 70, FY 2026 to create a new CIP in FY 2026 titled "South Yuba Canal Wildfire Defense Project (Project #G0007); and

WHEREAS, This full project will remove hazardous trees and dense ladder fuels to reduce wildfire risk along 58 acres, or 2.5 miles, of the South Yuba Canal immediately upstream and downstream of the Highway 20 crossing; and

WHEREAS, Project implementation will include vegetation and tree removal to create a shaded fuel break utilizing mechanical methods including hand crews, felling, feller-buncher, mastication, sawyers and heavy equipment. Additionally, trees with strike potential to the raised wooden flume and the box flume section will be removed; and

WHEREAS, This project is divided into two phases, phase I will focus on approximately 29.5 acres, or one mile of canal, immediately downstream of the Hwy 20 crossing; and

WHEREAS, This project area is within NID's easement of the South Yuba Canal on District-owned as well as private and federal lands, and staff have coordinated with adjacent landowners to obtain permission to implement the project on their land and to remove 692 trees that are 10 inches in diameter or larger; and

WHEREAS, All merchantable timber removed from the project area will be merchandised if possible and property owners have released their timber to the project which has helped to offset the cost of implementation; and

WHEREAS, NID released a Request for Proposals to seven (7) potential bidders on July 23, 2026 and has received 4 proposals for the Phase 1 work; and

WHEREAS, Staff recommend contracting with Frank Dial Logging for this Phase 1 project work with a proven skill, precision and performance at District facilities, Dial demonstrates the specialized expertise and capability required to successfully perform this work within such a narrow and challenging footprint.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District:

1. The Board of Directors hereby approves a contract award to Frank Dial Logging in an amount not to exceed \$468,000 to execute Phase 1 of the South Yuba Canal Wildfire Defense Project (Project #G0007); and
2. The Board of Directors hereby authorizes the General Manager to execute the necessary documents to cause the actions contemplated with this resolution.

* * * * *

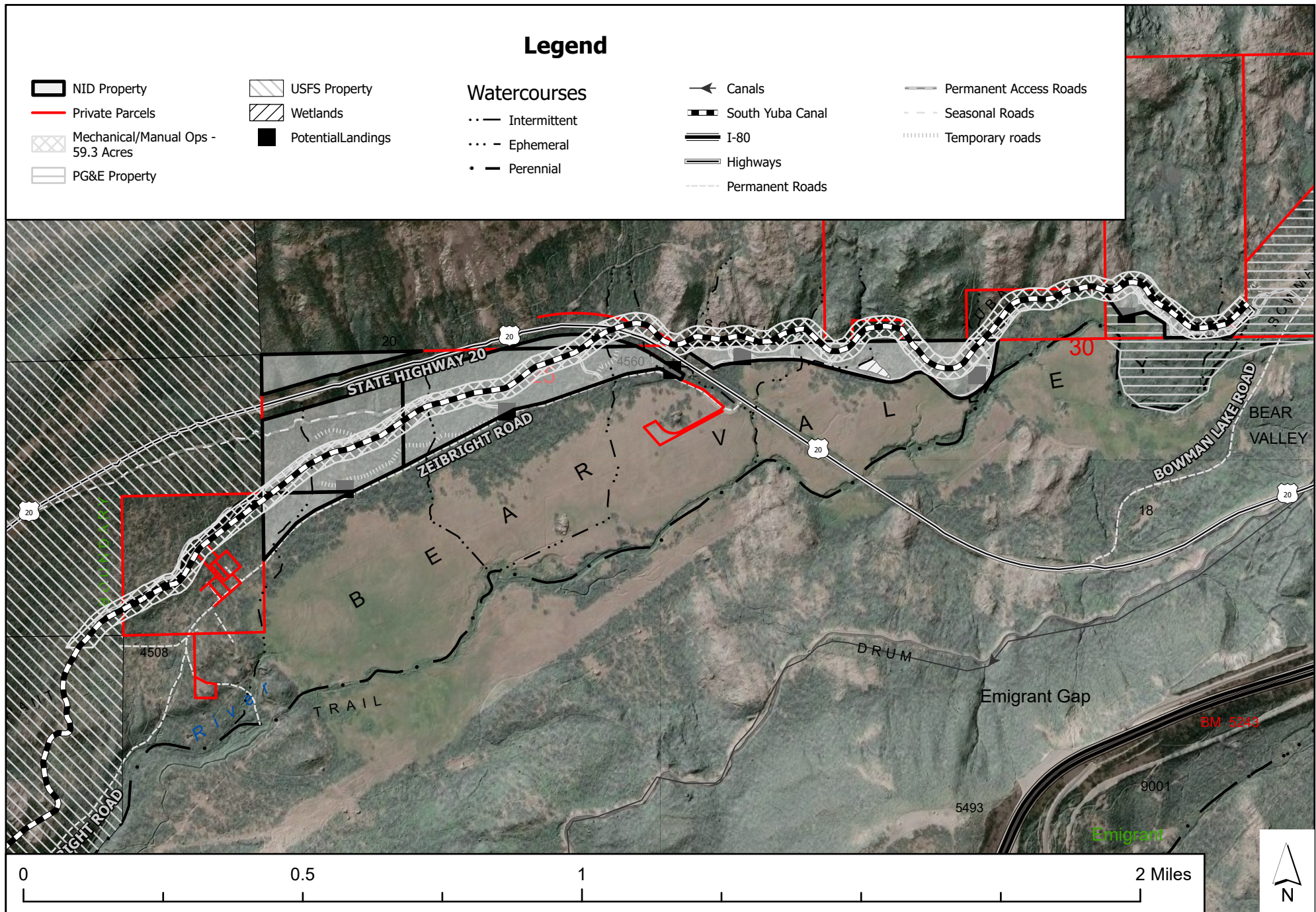
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District at a regular meeting held on the 9th day of September, 2026 by the following vote:

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

President of the Board of Directors

Attest:

Secretary to the Board of Directors



NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

NEVADA COUNTY -- PLACER COUNTY
GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

NID South Yuba Canal Wildfire Defense Project - REVISED 4/28/26
Project Tracking Number: 25-WP-NEU 79202444

Drawn By: C. TOWNSEND

Date: 8/4/2026

Scale: 1:14,406

Representative Photographs
South Yuba Canal Hazard Tree and Wildfire
Defense Project

Sept. 9, 2026



South Yuba Canal with adjacent vegetation



South Yuba Canal raised wooden flume portion.



South Yuba Canal wooden supports exposed to potential wildfire



South Yuba Canal with access road downhill of raised flume



Large Trees adjacent to South Yuba Canal



Large Trees adjacent to South Yuba Canal