

Staff Report

TO: Board of Directors

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

DATE: May 13, 2026

SUBJECT: **Upper Middle Yuba Headwaters NEPA Project Budget Amendment and Consultant Contract Approvals (CIP No. G0006) (Consent)**

ADMINISTRATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution approving a budget amendment and three consultant contracts for the Upper Middle Yuba NEPA Planning Grant (CIP PO No. G0006) for Wildlife Biology, Botany and Archaeology assessments, reporting and NEPA document preparation, and authorize the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents.

BACKGROUND:

On May 2, 2024, NID executed Grant Agreement No. 1688 with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in the amount of \$386,100 to complete the Upper Middle Yuba Watershed Forest Restoration: NEPA Planning Project (CIP No.G0006). After some delay and after the 2026 NID Budget was developed, productive conversations and coordination with the USFS ensured the summer survey work can move forward. FY 2026 Budget for this project is currently \$250,000.

This project is a partnership between NID and the Tahoe National Forest Sierraville Ranger District (TNF). Grant funds and in-kind staff time will support environmental surveys and reporting necessary to complete NEPA on more than 2,000 acres of National Forest Lands. This NEPA project spans areas of the Tahoe National Forest that has been identified as priority for treatment within the headwaters of the Upper Middle Yuba River watershed. Within this area lies critical NID assets such as Jackson Meadows Reservoir, Milton Reservoir, and English and Shotgun Meadows.

The TNF is the lead agency for the development of the NEPA document and will be the primary determinant of the consultant report deliverables for biological, botany and archaeological services. NID is the main contracting entity for the consultants and will provide contracting and grant administration support. Both organizations collaborated in the SNC application, and the Scopes of Work associated with the released Request for Proposals (see below) were jointly created by TNF and NID. This project is a new endeavor for NID and highlights the importance of working in

partnership across ownership lines for the health and safety of the Upper Middle Yuba River watershed, a key source of NID’s water supply.

The contracts support environmental surveys, reporting and consultation associated with wildlife biology, botany, and archaeological resources. The contract deliverables will assist the TNF finalize forest restoration and fuels reduction treatment plans to complete the NEPA planning process for the area. The TNF will utilize an interdisciplinary internal team of environmental specialists to review and revise all contracted reports and documents.

Once NEPA is complete, between 2,000-4,000 acres will be ready for forest treatments to reduce wildfire risk, improve forest health, and to improve the water supply that flows from this area. This project area is immediately adjacent to and complimentary of the English Meadow Restoration Project, as well as the currently underway NID project to reduce fire fuels at Austin Meadows (CIP PO No. G0005).

Wildlife Biology

On March 20, 2026 NID distributed a Request for Proposals to four local firms for Wildlife Biology support and to complete field surveys in 2026, as detailed in the table below:

Wildlife Biology Tech RFP	Bid Amount	5%Contingency	Contract Award Total
Great Basin Institute	\$ 145,200	\$ 7,260	\$ 152,460
Santec	\$ 229,134	-	-
ACE	-	-	-
Mason Bruce and Grard	-	-	-

Both NID and TNF staff recommend the project be awarded to The Great Basin Institute for \$152,460. This contract will complete the necessary Wildlife Biological surveys and reporting for target species, providing field data to TNF for inclusion in the final NEPA document.

Botany

On April 3, 2026 NID distributed a Request for Proposals to six local firms for Botany consultation and to complete field surveys in 2026, as detailed in the table below:

Botany RFP	Bid Amount	5%Contingency	Contract Award Total
Wendy Boes, Wild Ginger Botanical Consulting	\$ 68,207	\$ 3,410	\$ 71,617
Great Basin Institute	\$ 165,000	-	-
Janelle Nolan and Assoc.	\$ 255,132	-	-
Santec	-	-	-
ACE	-	-	-
Mason Bruce and Grard	-	-	-

Both NID and TNF recommend the project be awarded to Wild Ginger Botanical Consulting for \$71,617. This contract will complete the necessary Botany surveys and reporting for target species, providing field data to TNF for inclusion in the final NEPA document.

Archaeology

On April 3, 2026 NID distributed a Request for Proposals to five local firms for Archaeology consultation and to complete field surveys in 2026, as detailed in the table below:

Archaeology RFP	Bid Amount	5%Contingency	Contract Award Total
Great Basin Institute	\$ 75,734	\$ 3,787	\$ 79,521
Santec	\$ 136,796	-	-
Janelle Nolan and Assoc.	-	-	-
ACE	-	-	-
Mason Bruce and Girard	-	-	-

Both NID and TNF recommend the project be awarded to Great Basin Institute for \$79,521. This contract will complete the necessary Archaeological surveys and reporting for the project, providing field data to TNF for inclusion in the final NEPA document.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

The 2026 NID Watershed Budget includes \$250,000 in expenses for this project. Staff requests an amendment of \$60,000 be added to Fund 70, CIP No. G0006, to cover the proposed contract amounts identified above. All the contract expenses are 100% reimbursable through the grant provided by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Attachments (1)

- Resolution No. 2026-21



RESOLUTION NO. 2026-21
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

**Approval of Budget Amendment and Consulting Contracts for the Upper Middle
Yuba Planning Grant Project (Project No. G0006)**

WHEREAS, the Nevada Irrigation District budget for the 2026 fiscal year reflects resources to meet the needs of the District and the District's customers; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors adopted the 2026 Annual Budget on November 12, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the NID FY 2026 Budget for this project is currently \$250,000; and

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2024, NID executed Grant Agreement No. 1688 with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in the amount of \$386,100 to support completion of the Upper Middle Yuba Watershed Forest Restoration: NEPA Planning Project (CIP No.G0006); and

WHEREAS, after some delay and after the 2026 NID Budget was developed, productive conversations and coordination with the USFS ensured the summer survey work can move forward.

WHEREAS, this project is a partnership between NID and the Tahoe National Forest Sierraville Ranger District (TNF) where grant funds will support environmental surveys and reporting necessary to complete NEPA on between 2,000 – 4,000 acres of National Forest Lands; and

WHEREAS, this NEPA project spans areas of the Tahoe National Forest that has been identified as priority for treatment within the headwaters of the Upper Middle Yuba River watershed wherein lies critical NID assets such as Jackson Meadows Reservoir, Milton Reservoir, and English and Shotgun Meadows; and

WHEREAS, the TNF is the lead agency for the development of the NEPA document and will be the primary determinant of the consultant report deliverables; and

NID is the main contracting entity for the consultants and will provide contracting and grant administration support; and

WHEREAS, the consultant contracts will support environmental surveys, reporting and consultation associated with wildlife biology, botany, and archaeological resources and deliverables will assist the TNF finalize forest restoration and fuels reduction treatment plans to complete the NEPA planning process for the area; and

WHEREAS, On March 20, 2026 NID distributed a Request for Proposals to four local firms for Wildlife Biology support, and on April 3, 2026 NID distributed a Request for Proposals to six local firms for Botany consultation, and to five firms for Archaeology consultation; and

WHEREAS, both NID and TNF reviewed and recommend the three projects be awarded as detailed below.

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

1. The Board of Directors hereby approves a Budget Amendment to Fund 70, FY 2026 to increase funding for the Upper Middle Yuba NEPA Planning Grant (CIP PO No.G0006) in the amount of \$60,000 for Consultant Fees.
2. The Board of Directors hereby approves 2026 contract totals in the amounts not to exceed: The Great Basin Institute (\$152,460) for Wildlife Biology services, Wild Ginger Botanical Consulting (\$71,617) for Botany services, and The Great Basin Institute (\$79,521) for Archeology services.
3. The Board of Directors hereby authorizes the General Manager, or designee, to execute the necessary documents to cause the actions contemplated with this resolution.

Resolution No. 2026-21
Approval of Budget Amendment and Consultant Contracts for the Upper Middle Yuba
Planning Grant Project (Project #G0006)
Page 3

* * * * *

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation
District at a regular meeting held on the 13th day of May, 2026 by the following vote:

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

Attest:

President of the Board of Directors

Secretary to the Board of Directors