



**COUNTY OF NEVADA  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**  
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Trisha Tillotson  
Community Development Agency Director

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Planning Director

**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
BOARD AGENDA MEMO**

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**MEETING DATE:** November 12, 2024

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** **Brian Foss, Planning Director**

**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing to consider adoption of a Resolution to commence a 30-day public comment period for the County's Prohousing Designation Application starting on November 13, 2024, to December 12, 2024, and to authorize the Planning Department to submit the application to the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development after the expiration of the official 30-day public comment period.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** No additional funding requested. Local governments with Prohousing Designation are eligible to apply for the Prohousing Incentive Program, a state investment from the Building Homes and Jobs Trust Fund and can also receive priority processing or funding points for several funding programs.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution authorizing submittal of Prohousing Designation Application.
2. Prohousing Designation Draft Application
3. July 9, 2024 Board of Supervisors Prohousing Designation Staff Memorandum

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**BACKGROUND:** On July 9, 2024, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 24-391, which authorized an application to and participation in the State of California Housing and Community Development's (HCD) Prohousing Designation program. The July 9, 2024, Board staff report is attached herein to provide further detail on the program and why it is important to the County. On August 30, 2024, the Planning Department submitted the application to HCD to commence the review process. Direction was provided by HCD, that in 2024 additional requirements were added to the application

process, including a mandate the County host a minimum 30-day public comment and review period and that the application include information on the County's policy towards addressing homeless encampments, specifically that the County demonstrated:

“that its treatment of homeless encampments on public property complies with and will continue to comply with the constitutional rights of persons experiencing homelessness and that it has submitted a one-page summary to the Department demonstrating how the applicant has enacted best practices in their jurisdiction related to the treatment of unhoused individuals camping on public property, consistent with United States Interagency Council on Homelessness’ “7 Principles for Addressing Encampments,” (June 17, 2022 update), hereby incorporated by reference.”

Since the County's original application did not include the required public process, a new Board Resolution is necessary to open the 30-day public review period and provide authorization to submit the application to HCD for review upon the completion of the requisite public process. This resolution is provided in Attachment 1 and the County's updated Prohousing Designation application is provided in Attachment 2. Planning Staff has worked closely with HCD, who is providing technical assistance to the County on this application to ensure that the County can achieve the designation. In addition, Staff from the Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Department has assisted with updating the application materials with information regarding the County's ongoing efforts towards developing an encampment policy.

If the attached Resolution is approved by the Board of Supervisors, this will commence the 30-day public review period beginning on November 13, 2024, and ending on December 12, 2024. To assist with engaging the citizens of Nevada County, the Planning Department has distributed the Notice of Public Hearing for this meeting and provided an invitation to provide comments on the application to all groups, agencies and individuals on the Planning Department's distribution list. The Planning Department is also preparing a press release and a webpage specific to this effort. To further public engagement, the Department of Behavioral Health included the Prohousing Designation effort on the agenda for the Mental Health and Substance Use Advisory Board for their meeting on Friday November 4, 2024. The Director of Behavioral Health also discussed the County's effort to achieve a Prohousing Designation with the the Forensic Task Force on October 25, 2025 which includes the District Attorney, Public Defender, Courts, Behavioral Health, crisis system and other key stakeholders interested in the intersection between the justice system and behavioral health needs, with a great deal of focus on people experiencing homelessness.

**SUMMARY:** Staff is requesting that the Board adopt the attached Resolution, based on direction from HCD, to commence a mandatory 30-day public review process for the County's Prohousing Designation and authorizing the Planning Department to submit the attached draft Prohousing Designation Application to HCD after the completion of the public review period on December 12, 2024.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Planning Department staff recommend that the Board of Supervisors take the following actions:

I. Project Action: Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing application to and participation in the Prohousing Designation Program making finding A:

A. The Prohousing Designation Program Application is not a project and is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines.

**Item Initiated:** Tyler Barrington, Principal Planner

**Approved:** Brian Foss, Director of Planning

**Submittal Date:** October 28, 2024