

RESOLUTION 2025-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRASS VALLEY OPPOSING THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS THAT WILL RESULT FROM FEDERAL FUNDING CUTS ON THE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS; the City of Grass Valley is a community of approximately 14,000 residents located in rural Nevada County, California;

WHEREAS; recreation and tourism play a vital role in Grass Valley's local economy, with visitors drawn to the city's historic downtown, public lands, and cultural events. Federal staffing reductions affecting public lands could lead to fewer maintained trails, closures of campgrounds, and a diminished visitor experience to our region. Anticipated impacts include reduced visitation, decreased economic support for local businesses, increased risk of unauthorized camping in unmanaged areas, heightened wildfire risks due to unregulated campfires, illegal parking, environmental degradation, closure of public restroom facilities, and increased trash, litter, and human waste pollution;

WHEREAS; uncertainty surrounding United States Forest Service funding cuts, staffing reductions, and contract delays leaves Grass Valley and the greater Nevada County region without adequate time to plan for potential campsite closures, restroom closures, campfire safety education, and the unavailability of trash disposal facilities;

WHEREAS; Grass Valley is home to Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, the primary healthcare provider for the region. The hospital serves as a critical healthcare facility and is a major local employer. Medi-Cal (Medicaid) funding is essential for the hospital's continued operation and its ability to provide care for low-income residents, seniors, and other vulnerable populations;

WHEREAS; Grass Valley is served by the Grass Valley School District and Nevada Joint Union High School District, which educate thousands of local students. These districts rely on federal funding sources to support student nutrition, educational, and family assistance programs;

WHEREAS; Grass Valley is located along State Highways 49 and 20, critical regional transportation corridors that connect western Nevada County with neighboring communities. These highways experience significant traffic congestion and serve as essential evacuation routes in the event of wildfires or other emergencies. Federal funding for infrastructure improvements, maintenance, and public transit is crucial for ensuring safety, reducing congestion, and maintaining emergency access;

WHEREAS; cities like Grass Valley rely on various federal funding sources and partnerships with federal agencies. Delays in payment processing and freezes on federal funding create operational uncertainty;

WHEREAS; the availability and affordability of workforce housing remains a significant challenge in Grass Valley, where the local economy depends on workers in tourism, healthcare, and service industries. Increased construction material tariffs would further escalate costs, making it more difficult to build affordable housing and critical infrastructure;

WHEREAS; Grass Valley’s community-based organizations and social services rely on federal funding sources, and budget cuts or freezes could significantly impact essential programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Grass Valley urges federal policymakers to recognize the critical role of federal funding in supporting the city’s infrastructure, healthcare, education, public safety, and economic vitality. The City Council opposes any federal budget reductions or funding freezes that would negatively impact the well-being of Grass Valley residents, local businesses, and essential community services.

ADOPTED as a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Grass Valley at a regular meeting held on the 25th day of March 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: Council Member
NOES: Council Member
ABSENT: Council Member
ABSTAINING: Council Member

Hilary Hodge, Chair

ATTEST:

Taylor Whittingslow, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Michael Colantuono, City Attorney