



# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Administration • 209-966-3222



## **RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2013-546**

MEETING: December 10, 2013

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rick Benson, County Administrative Officer

RE: Elections for National Forest Safety Net Payments

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### **RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Adopt a Resolution Electing to Receive a Share of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Act State Payment and of this Payment to Allocate 15-Percent to Title III Projects. In October 2013, the SRS was reauthorized for federal fiscal year 2013 with Public Law 113-40. Counties must adopt a resolution electing to receive the traditional harvest receipt shares (25-percent payment) or a share of the SRS payment. The majority of counties in California will receive more funding electing a share of the SRS payment, which is what Mariposa County has traditionally done. Electing to receive a share of the SRS payment will provide the Road fund and local school district with an estimated \$140,000 each. The estimated 25-percent payment would be approximately \$90,000.

Counties must also elect to allocate between twenty to fifteen percent of their SRS payment for Title II and/or Title III projects. Title II projects must be submitted to and approved by a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), while Title III projects are decided upon by the Board of Supervisors. Mariposa County is a member of the Tuolumne-Mariposa RAC. If the SRS payment is more than \$350,000, then the allocation to Title III projects cannot exceed 7-percent. If the SRS payment is more than \$100,000 and less than \$349,999, then the county must allocate 15-percent to 20-percent of its SRS payment to Title II, Title III, or a combination of both. It is estimated that Mariposa County will receive \$337,000. Staff is recommending that 15-percent be allocated to Title III projects, rather than splitting the amount between Title II and Title III. Traditional Board approved Title III projects have included the Fire Safe Council, the Southwest Interface Project (SWIFT), a portion of the Master Gardener program, and educational supplies on fire prevention for our County Fire Department.

The Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC) and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) are compiling all of the county selection data for SRS payments. After receiving all selections, RCRC and CSAC will transmit the documents to the Governor who is responsible for forwarding them to the United States Forest Service. The selection deadline is December 31, 2013.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

On August 14, 2012, the Board adopted Resolution 12-422 electing to receive the full safety-net payment, and allocating fifteen percent to Title II/III projects, and specifically allocating eight percent to Title II projects and seven percent to Title III projects. In previous years, the County's SRS payment had exceeded the \$350,000 threshold and therefore had to allocate funding to both Title II and Title III projects.

**ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

Do not adopt the Resolution. The Road Fund and the local school district will not receive an estimated \$140,000 in funding, and no funding will be available for Title III projects.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

**The Road Fund and local school district will receive approximately \$140,000 each in funding, with approximately \$40,000 for Title III projects.**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Resolution for Payment Elections 2013 (DOCX)**

**CAO RECOMMENDATION**

Requested Action Recommended

  
Rick Benson, County Administrator/Office

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]**

**MOVER:** Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor

**SECONDER:** John Carrier, District V Supervisor

**AYES:** Stetson, Jones, Bibby, Cann, Carrier

## MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOLUTION 13-546

### A RESOLUTION FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2013 ELECTIONS FOR NATIONAL FOREST RELATED SAFETY-NET PAYMENTS

**WHEREAS**, Congress enacted in 1908 and subsequently amended a law that requires that 25-percent of the revenue derived from National Forest lands be paid to states for use by the counties in which the lands are situated for the benefit of public schools and roads; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress recognized a need to stabilize education and road maintenance funding through predictable payments to the affected counties; and to achieve that goal enacted the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, which has been amended and re-authorized for federal fiscal 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Law 113-40 gives each eligible county the right to elect to receive either its traditional share of revenue from the National Forest lands pursuant to the Act of May 23, 1908, and Section 13 of the Act of March 1, 1911 (the "25-percent payments"), or instead to receive a guaranteed minimum share of the State payment pursuant to Sections 102(a)(1)(B) and 103 (the "full county payment amount"); and

**WHEREAS**, any county electing to receive the full county payment that is \$100,000 or more, must further elect to expend an amount not less than 15-percent nor more than 20-percent of its full county payment amount as project funds; and

**WHEREAS**, counties electing to receive the full county payment of \$100,000 or more must allocate its project funds for projects in accordance with Title II and Title III, and return the balance of project funds unspent under Title II and Title III to the Treasury of the United States, and communicate such allocation to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture; and

**WHEREAS**, Title II provides for special projects on federal lands or that benefit resources on federal lands, and are recommended by local resource advisory committees ("RACs"); and

**WHEREAS**, RACs recommend projects for consideration by the Secretary of Agriculture, with project funding supplied in whole or in part out of monies allocated for such purposes by participating counties; and

**WHEREAS**, Title III provides for county projects, some of which are associated with federal lands, with Title III authorizing expenditures for search, rescue, and emergency services on federal lands, fire prevention and planning under the Firewise Communities program, and development of community wildfire protection plans; and

**WHEREAS**, a county with a full county payment amount of \$350,000 or more may not allocate more than 7-percent of its full county payment for Title III projects.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the County of Mariposa hereby elects to receive a share of the Secure Rural Schools Act State payment.

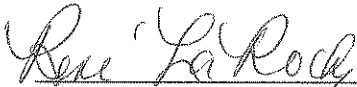
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the County of Mariposa has elected to receive the share of the Secure Rural Schools Act State payment amount that is more than \$100,000 but less than \$349,999, and hereby allocates 15-percent of its Secure Rural Schools Act payment amount for expenditures on projects under Title III. The County of Mariposa will return none (zero-percent) of its full county payment amount to the Treasury of the United States.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa, a political subdivision of the State of California, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 2013 by unanimous vote.



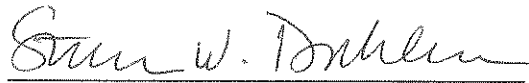
**LEE STETSON, Chair**

**ATTEST:**



**René LaRoche, Clerk of the Board**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**



**Steven W. Dahlem, County Counsel**