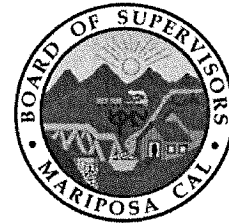




MARIPOSA COUNTY

Administration • 209-966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2014-589

MEETING: November 25, 2014

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Mary Hodson, Interim CAO

RE: PILT Funding Letter of Support

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Ratify a Letter of Support to the County's Federal Legislative Representatives Regarding Payment-in-Lieu-Of-Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS) Funding. Congress is preparing to develop the final 2015 budget. The current short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) will expire December 11, 2014, and Congress needs to either extend the CR into the new fiscal year or pass a catch-all omnibus appropriations bill. It is critical that both the PILT and SRS programs are funded in either the CR or the omnibus.

Mariposa County receives approximately \$1.1 million annually in PILT money and an estimated \$270,000 in SRS (of which half goes to our local school district and the other half to the County's Road fund). Because Congress is now deliberating on this critical funding issue there was insufficient time to first gain Board approval prior to sending this letter of support.

Please note that the attached letter addressed to Senator Boxer, was also addressed and sent to Senator Feinstein and Congress Member McClintock.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has ratified letters in the past either in support or against critical issues that may have a serious effect on the operations of the County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not ratify the letter. Staff will need to write letters to the County's Federal Legislative Representatives withdrawing the County's support for PILT and SRS funding. Individual Board members may draft their own letters of support.

ATTACHMENTS:

PILT Letter of Support 2014 (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION

Requested Action Recommended

Mary Hodson

Mary Hodson, Interim CAO 11/19/2014

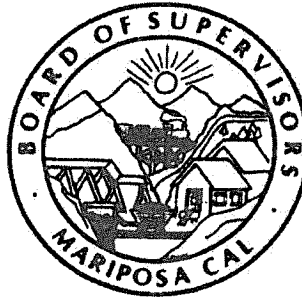
RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Janet Bibby, District III Supervisor

SECONDER: John Carrier, District V Supervisor

AYES: Stetson, Jones, Bibby, Cann, Carrier

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors



District 1 LEE STETSON
District 2 MERLIN JONES
District 3 JANET BIBBY
District 4 KEVIN CANN
District 5 JOHN CARRIER

MARY HODSON
Interim County Administrative Officer

RENÉ LAROCHE
Clerk of the Board

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November 18, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Payments-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) Program

Dear Senator Boxer:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors urges you to support funding for the PILT program and the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS). Counties are unable to collect local taxes on federally owned land and must rely on annual PILT payments to carry out essential services on these lands – road maintenance, solid waste collections, law enforcement, and search/rescue operations. Of the approximately 1 million acres comprising Mariposa County, nearly 550,000 acres of this land is in public ownership including Yosemite National Park, and two National Forests – Sierra and Stanislaus.

Mariposa County receives an estimated \$1.1 million in PILT annually and this amount is included in the nearly \$24 million budgeted as discretionary revenue to be collected in Fiscal Year 2014-15. Our discretionary revenue funds essential services such as law enforcement, veterans' services, fire protection, library services, and senior services. Loss of this revenue would have a devastating effect and in all likelihood require a reduction in one or more of these crucial services while still requiring the County to continue providing essential services on federally owned lands.

The SRS payment is estimated to be \$270,000 this Fiscal Year for Mariposa County, of which half goes to our local school district and the other half to our Road fund. This funding helps to maintain our rapidly deteriorating local roads – a recently conducted pavement management assessment has an estimated 43% of our local roads classified as either poor or in very poor/failed conditions.

Again, please support funding for the PILT and SRS programs in the Federal Budget. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

KEVIN CANN
Chairman

cc: National Association of Counties
California State Association of Counties
Rural County Representatives of California