

DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors

BY: Bob Pickard

PHONE: 966-3222

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

(Policy Item: Yes ___ No)

Authorize Chairman to sign a letter in support of a grant for the Ponderosa Basin Fuel Management Project.

The Mariposa County Resource Conservation District is applying for a \$6,000 grant from the California Department of Conservation Resource Conservation District Grant Program to fund a fuel management project for Ponderosa Basin. Support for the application has been requested of the Board of Supervisors.

A draft copy of the grant application is attached along with the letter of support.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board of Supervisors has supported RCD grant applications in the past.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Due to an impending grant deadline, the letter has already been submitted. If the Board determines not to support the grant application, the letter will be withdrawn.

COSTS: () Not Applicable A. Budgeted Current FY \$ B. Total Anticipated Costs \$ C. Required Additional Funding \$ D. Internal Transfers \$ SOURCE: () 4/5ths Vote Required \$ A. Unanticipated Revenues \$ B. Reserve for Contingencies \$ C. Source Description: _____ Balance in Reserve for Contingencies ,if approved: _____		SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: List the attachments and number the pages consecutively: Draft grant application Letter of support _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
CLERKS USE ONLY: Res. No. <u>99-30</u> Ord. No. _____ Vote - Ayes: <u>5</u> Noes: _____ Absent: _____ Abstained: _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved () Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Minute Order Attached () No Action Necessary The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office Date: _____ ATTEST: _____ MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board County of Mariposa, State of California BY: _____ Deputy		ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION: This item on agenda as: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> For Policy Determination <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted with Comment <input type="checkbox"/> Returned for Further Action Comment: _____ _____ CAO's Initials: <u>JH</u>



COUNTY of MARIPOSA

P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222

PATTI A. REILLY, CHAIR
BOB PICKARD, VICE-CHAIRMAN
DOUG BALMAIN
ROBERT C. STEWART
GARRY R. PARKER

DISTRICT I
DISTRICT V
DISTRICT II
DISTRICT III
DISTRICT IV



MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: BOB PICKARD, District V Supervisor
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board *MW*
SUBJECT: Ponderosa Basin Fuel Management; Res. 99-30

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,

ADOPTED THIS Order on January 19, 1999

ACTION AND VOTE:

Resolution Authorizing Chair to Sign Letter in Support of Grant Application for the Ponderosa Basin Fuel Management (Supervisor Pickard)

BOARD ACTION: (M)Balmain, (S)Reilly, Res. 99-30 adopted/Ayes: Unanimous. Discussion was held relative to the status of the grant application for Proposition 204 funds and the County Administrative Officer was asked to check on this. Further discussion was held relative to the Board being asked to approve grant applications after they have already been submitted. Board concurred with establishing a policy whereby it is okay for the Chairman to send a letter personally supporting a grant application and making it clear that it is being sent as an individual Board member, and that the letter not be submitted on behalf of the Board. Any such letter should also be copied to the other Board members.

cc: Janet Hogan, County Administrative Officer
Blaine Shultz, Fire Chief
Board of Supervisors Policy Book
File

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT GRANT PROGRAM
Fiscal Year 1998/99
Proposal Cover Page**

DRAFT

RCD name: Mariposa County Resource Conservation District
 President's name: Michael Hubert
 RCD mailing address: P.O. Box 746, Mariposa, CA 95338
 Telephone: (209) 966-3431
 Fax: (209) 966-2056
 RCD federal I.D. #: IK77-0438850
 Project title: Ponderosa Basin Fuel Management Project
 Project location: The headwaters of the East Fork of the Chowchilla River in eastern Mariposa County, 15 miles due east of the town of Mariposa.

Project leaders:

- Kary Weaver, MCRCO Manager
P.O. Box 746, Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 966-3431
- Jan Hamilton, Mariposa County Fire Safe Council Chairperson
6654 Jerseydale Road, Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 966-2387

Cooperators: *(those who have a specific role in the project)*

- Mariposa County RCD
- Mariposa County Fire Safe Council
- Candace Gregory, CDF Ranger Unit Chief
5366 Hwy. 49 N., Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 966-3622
- Jerry Prognor, District Conservationist, NRCS
P.O. Box 746, Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 966-3431
- Debra Freitas, Rural Challenge Coordinator
*Mariposa County Unified School District
Address*
(209) 742-0240
- *Any more?*

Supporters: *(those who support but are providing no contributions. Support letters)*

- Blaine Schultz, title, Mariposa County Fire Department
*address
phone*
- U.S.F.S
Name, address, etc.
- Candy O'Donel-Browne
Economic Development Corporation of Mariposa County
P.O. Box 731, Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 966-3407

Other funding:

- CDF- Fred & Roscoe's time

DRAFT

- *Show much\$? Actual or potential?*
- NRCS- Jerry's time
Show much\$? Actual or potential?
Contact name, address, phone
- MCRCO
Show much\$? Actual or potential?
- Ponderosa Basin Homeowners (Assn.?)
Show much\$? Actual or potential? In-kind?

Request from the Department of Conservation	\$6,000??????
Other funding	\$
Total project budget	\$

B. Executive Summary

The upper watershed of the East Fork of the Chowchilla River contains Ponderosa Basin subdivision, one of the most densely populated areas within Mariposa County. The fuel load in this watershed is extremely high. Due to the very small parcel sizes there is no safe way to burn harvested fuel. This project will provide a safe and ecologically beneficial method to reduce fuel and result in a fire safe community. Landowners will be informed of the proper method to harvest hazardous fuel and where to stockpile it. A commercial chipper will be provided, at a small cost to each landowner, to chip the fuel. This chipped material will be broadcast back onto the landscape where it will become a beneficial mulch. Landowners will be further educated on appropriate methods to prevent regrowth of hazardous fuels. The project will be considered a success when CDF qualifies the community a "Fire Safe Community." Not only will the landowners benefit, but the surrounding Sierra National Forest, Yosemite National Park, and downstream consumers of water from the Chowchilla River will benefit.

C. Project Justification

The headwaters of the East Fork of the Chowchilla River contain approximately 8,500 acres as well as the Ponderosa Basin subdivision, one of the most densely populated regions in Mariposa County. Ponderosa Basin is home to approximately 800 people and contains 385 parcels averaging one acre in size. The subdivision is bordered on three sides by Sierra National Forest. The west boundary of Yosemite National Park is two miles from the top of the watershed. This is a very steep, heavily wooded watershed ranging in elevation from 3,000' to 6,000' over a distance of five miles. Ponderosa Basin is located in the middle of this watershed. Typical vegetation is Ponderosa pine, black oak, live oak, manzanita, and ceonothus. The fuel load is extreme, ranging from 5 to 13 tons per acre, and the CDF 52-year fire history map of Mariposa County shows this area to have the highest concentration of large damaging fires in the county. No less than four major wildfires have started in this region in the last half century. The CDF fuel model analysis rates this area as an extreme fire hazard severity zone. When a wildfire eventually moves up this drainage it will likely spread into both Sierra National Forest and Yosemite National Park and will have a devastating impact upon the waters of the Chowchilla River. The landowners and resource managers are conscious of the hazardous environment around them and have asked the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council and the RCD to help them find a solution. On November 14, 1998 the Fire Safe Council held a community workshop in Ponderosa Basin to help landowners perform risk analyses, decide on evacuation procedures, and begin to formulate a watershed fuel management strategy. The "California Fire Plan" describes this process as the "prefire management initiative" which suggests the application of risk assessment, fire safety, fire

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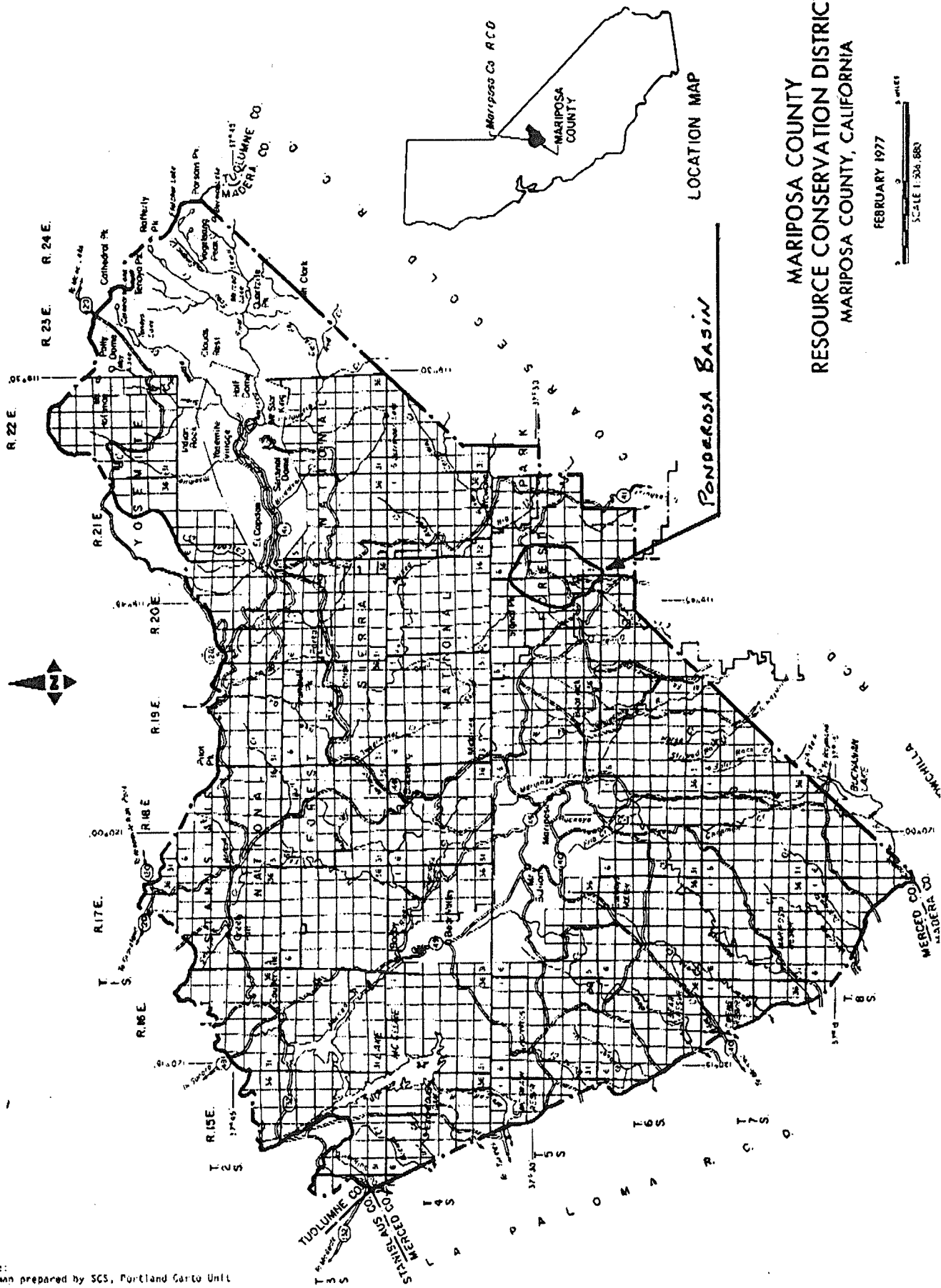
prevention, and fire hazard reduction techniques. The "Status of the Sierra Nevada", produced by the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project, describes a fuel management strategy based on risk, hazard, and values at risk. The strategy uses these factors to determine fuel management priorities. Risk is the chance of a fire starting. Hazard defines the fuel complex by volume, type, condition, and location on the landscape. Values at risk include all the natural resources as well as the improvements and human life that will be jeopardized in the case of a wildfire. Ponderosa Basin rates high in all these categories. This proposal will coordinate assistance available from the Fire Safe Council, the RCD, Mariposa County Fire Department, CDF, NRCS, and the US Forest Service, as well as the landowners themselves. There is an active Vegetative Management Program (VMP) presently being implemented by CDF just two miles west in an area with similar characteristics.

D. Objectives

- This objective is to generate a watershed management plan that will inventory the condition of the natural resources and describe the procedures for managing and sustaining them. One component of the plan will be the designation of fuel breaks
- The next objective is to provide a mechanism for landowners to harvest and safely dispose of hazardous fuel in order to create a fire safe community
- The last objective is to improve upon and maintain an outreach and education program for landowners, not only within this watershed, but for other similar areas throughout the county where fuel management is needed

E. Workplans and Methods

- The watershed management plan will be generated through a process of public input and agency cooperation. The natural resources will be inventoried and described, as will be the man-made improvements. The plan will document the conservation practices needed in order to produce a fire safe community in Ponderosa Basin as well as provide a sustained healthy watershed. Key participants in the planning process other than the landowners will include the Fire Safe Council, the RCD, US Forest Service, CDF, and NRCS.
- Landowners in Ponderosa Basin will be offered the use of a commercial chipper to process fuels that have been harvested. Due to the small lots and population density it would be too risky to burn these fuels. Once chipped, the material will be left on site to be broadcast back onto the landscape as a beneficial mulch. The commercial chipper will be provided through a contract with a private firm. CDF will determine the amount of hazardous fuel to be removed in order to consider the community firesafe.
- Outreach and education will be provided to the landowners in order that they follow accepted guidelines. They will be informed of the correct methods for harvesting fuel as well as the suggested methods of controlling regrowth and maintaining a fire safe condition in the future. Mariposa County High School's Rural Challenge Program has a student team project in the process of doing a Ponderosa Basin risk assessment and fire safety education program. This will result in the production of a video and power point presentation for the general public. This entire process will be well documented in order that it can be applied again in the future in other watersheds with similar resource needs.

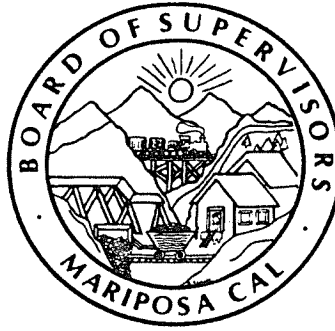


MARIPOSA COUNTY
 RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 1977
 SCALE 1:50,000

Sources:
 Base map prepared by SCS, Portland Carto Unit
 from General Highway Maps.
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors



JANET HOGAN
County Administrative Officer

MARGIE WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Board

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District 1.....PATTI A. REILLY
District 2.....DOUG BALMAIN
District 3.....ROBERT C. STEWART
District 4.....GARRY R. PARKER
District 5.....BOB PICKARD

January 11, 1999

Michael Hubert, President
Mariposa County Resource Conservation District
Post Office Box 746
Mariposa, California 95338

Dear Mr. Hubert:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors supports the application of the Resource Conservation District for \$6,000 to fund a fuel management project for Ponderosa Basin. We are well aware of the fire safety issues throughout our County, and the proposed project has the potential to benefit not just Ponderosa Basin, but several other areas of Mariposa County.

Thank you for pursuing these funds. We look forward to a successful project.

Sincerely,

BOB PICKARD
Chairman

cc: Board of Supervisors
Blaine Shultz, County Fire Chief
Jan Hamilton, Mariposa County Firesafe Council