



# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors · (209) 966-3222



## **RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2016-152**

MEETING: April 5, 2016

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: John Carrier, District V Supervisor

RE: Funding for MCRCD Y-M IRWM Project Coordinator

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### **RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Approve a Grant Agreement in the Amount of \$13,750 with the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) to Provide Funding for the Yosemite-Mariposa Integrated Regional Water Management (Y-M IRWM) Project Coordinator Position; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Grant Agreement. Funding for the Project Coordinator will end June 30, 2016, when the Department of Water Resources (DWR) planning grant expires. The MCRCD is seeking the County's financial assistance to fund a portion of the Project Coordinator's salary in the amount of \$13,750 per year. Specifically the funding is \$12,500 in salary and \$1,250 in MCRCD administrative costs.

#### The IRWM Program

- Provides leadership for regional water management
- Brings stakeholders together to collaborate
- Helps set priorities and identify projects to meet the needs of the region
- Improves regional water self-reliance
- Secures funding for projects

To date, the Y-M IRWM has secured almost \$2 million in grant funding. With the County's financial assistance, the Y-M IRWM Project Coordinator will pursue:

Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant (EPA funded) - this program funds projects that build capacity within watersheds to keep them healthy. The requested grant amount would be \$125,000 to fund the Project Coordinator position for five years (\$25,000 per year). This grant can be re-applied for annually if the MCRCD is not awarded the grant in the first few years.

Farm and Ranchland Illegal Dumping Cleanup Grant (CalRecycle funded) - this program reimburses private property owners and public lands for cleaning up illegal dumping. There are two cycles per year and MCRCD would retain ten percent for overhead costs. The MCRCD anticipates requesting \$25,000 two times per year with \$5,000 going to the MCRCD annually. The MCRCD is actively seeking interested parties in the County who have need of these funds.

Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council (member funded) - this

organization provides funding for watershed assessments. MCRCD has agreed to perform initial assessments for the Merced and San Joaquin River watersheds for \$2,240.

Prop 1 Grants (California Water Bond funded) - this program has a number of agencies which provide grants for a number of types of water management projects. The MCRCD will be assisting Y-M IRWM members in applying as well as applying for MCRCD projects such as water conservation. Funding varies by granting agency but the MCRCD anticipates applying for three to five opportunities per year with awards ranging from \$25,000 to \$500,000.

Wildlife Urban Interface Grants (CalFIRE funded) - this program provides funding for partnerships where the forest meets communities. Brush clearance, thinning, and reforestation are potential activities on both forest land and for homeowners. This funding has been annual and the MCRCD hopes to apply for the next round with a target amount of \$100,000.

Each of these grant programs brings funding to Mariposa County that improves the health of the forest and the watershed, and ensures the best management of our water resources. As an economy that provides unsurpassed tourism opportunities, healthy forests and well-managed water resources are critical to ensuring a positive experience for visitors. The Y-M IRWM also identifies needs such as updating water infrastructure and searches for funding to accomplish the necessary investment. Services such as brush clearance and dead tree removal, as well as cleanup of illegally dumped hazardous and non-hazardous materials, improve the appearance of our communities and increase the safety of residents and visitors alike. The MCRCD hopes to take some of the burden off of Mariposa County departments by assisting public and private agencies to achieve tasks such as cleanup and fire safety.

While the annual cost of the Y-M IRWM Project Coordinator has been funded at \$25,000 annually, the following is an outline of how the MCRCD plans on making due with one half of the necessary annual funding:

1. The DWR currently withholds 10 percent of each payment until the current planning grant is complete. The MCRCD grant will be complete in June 2016, and the final payment will be approximately \$10,000, however it is unknown how long it will take the DWR to release this funding.
2. The MCRCD will continue to pursue grants - those above and new ones already identified.
3. The MCRCD will continue their efforts with the statewide groups that are working to bring funding to local IRWMs - the Roundtable of Regions, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, Mountain Counties Water Resources Agency, and others. These efforts are all striving to get annual, ongoing funding for IRWM programs throughout the State.
4. If no funding is obtained, the MCRCD can scale back the number of hours the Project Coordinator works.

If this Board approves this Grant Agreement, then \$13,750 will be included in the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget. While funding will need to be expended prior to the adoption of the County's budget, the Grant Agreement will be paid in quarterly

amounts and it includes termination language with a 30-day written notice.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

The Board has provided funding to the MCRCD in previous fiscal years. Last fiscal year the Board approved funding of \$2,125 to allow MCRCD staff members and Directors to attend the State RCD conference that was held at the Tenaya Lodge.

**ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

Do not approve the Grant Agreement. MCRCD will need to identify another source of funding for the Y-M IRWM Project Coordinator or not utilize this position, which could diminish the MCRCD's ability to identify and apply for grants that are beneficial in preserving and protecting the County's natural resources.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

**The requested funding contribution of \$13,750 will be included in the Requested/Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17.**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Y-M IRWM Project Coordinator RCD Agreement 2016-17 (DOC)**

**CAO RECOMMENDATION**

Requested Action Recommended



Mary Hodson, CAO

3/29/2016

**RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**

**MOVER:** Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

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

**AYES:** Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Carrier