

MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors • (209) 966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2016-511

MEETING: September 27, 2016

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: John Carrier, District V Supervisor

RE: Ratify Letter of Support for RCD Grant Application

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Ratify a Letter in Support of the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District's (MCRCD's) Application for a CAL FIRE State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention and Tree Mortality Grant.

While these types of letters of support are normally voted on before being sent out, this one was received too late to include on the September 20, 2016, agenda, and waiting until the next meeting on September 27, 2016, would have been too late given the application deadline date. Consequently, given that the subject of the letter and grant falls under the Board's adopted 2016 Legislative Platform, given the Board's adoption of a Tree Mortality Proclamation, and given the State of Emergency due to Tree Mortality proclaimed by California Governor, Edmund G. Brown, Jr., on October 30, 2015, the Chair signed the letter on behalf of the Board and now seeks ratification for that action.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

- June 14, 2016: The 2016 Legislative Platform was approved and addressed tree mortality and specifically supported: "...allocating additional State revenues for forest health and prevention of tree mortality-related disasters, deployment of more technical and financial assistance to help private land owners with dead and dying trees on their properties and reduction of the California Disaster Assistance Act match requirement."
- September 15, 2015: The Board approved a Proclamation declaring the existence of a Local Emergency due to Extremely High Levels of Tree Mortality in Mariposa County, and has continued that Proclamation every month since.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not ratify the letter, and direct staff to draft a letter withdrawing the letter of support. Without Board support, the likelihood of the MCRCD being awarded a grant will decrease.

ATTACHMENTS:

Letter of Support for RCD Grant application (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION

Requested Action Recommended


Mary Hodson, CAO 9/22/2016

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

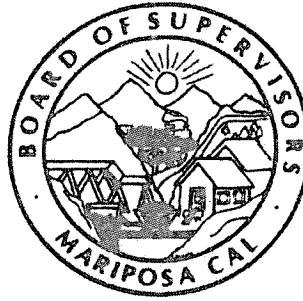
MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Carrier

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 ... ROSEMARIE SMALLCOMBE
District 2 MERLIN JONES
District 3 MARSHALL LONG
District 4 KEVIN CANN
District 5 JOHN CARRIER



MARY HODSON
County Administrative Officer

RENE LAROCHE
Clerk of the Board

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September 13, 2016

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Grants Management Unit -SRAFPF & TM Grants
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

RE: Letter Of Support

Dear Grant Reviewer:

We are pleased to support the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District's application for a State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention and Tree Mortality grant.

Mariposa County has been hard hit by drought and beetle kill, and is referred to as "ground zero" for tree mortality. While there are many agencies and organizations working to address the problem and ensure public safety, the MCRCD proposal would help to fill an important gap in those services. By providing resources to remove hazardous dead ponderosa pines for low income, small property owners, the MCRCD project would help reduce not only the threat of fire, but the threat of harm and injury for those residents who can least afford to remove hazardous trees.

The MCRCD grant proposal would bring much needed resources to Mariposa County to remove dead trees that pose a threat to health and safety for residents that are not eligible for other effective programs in the area. Mariposa County has a high percentage of low-income households and senior citizens who are impacted by tree mortality and need assistance in removing dead trees near their homes.

MCRCD has been very active and effective in providing education and services to Mariposa County residents, and has been a long time collaborative partner with all fire safety, forest health and watershed health organizations in the area. Mariposa County needs and deserves a large share of CalFire grant funds in order to assist residents in dealing with the hazardous conditions brought about by tree mortality.

Please consider funding this application in light of the serious threat that exists in Mariposa County and the high degree of need for many residents.

Sincerely,

John Carrier
Chairman
Board of Supervisors