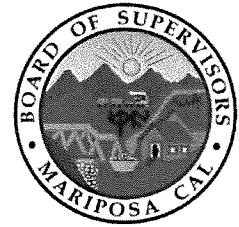


MARIPOSA COUNTY

Planning · 209-966-5151



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-558

MEETING: September 24, 2019
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Sarah Williams, Planning Director
RE: Comment Letter for the Draft Sierra National Forest Management Plan

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Comment Letter to the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests Land Management Plans Revision regarding the Merced River Trail; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter.

The Sequoia and Sierra National Forests have released their revised draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) and revised draft plans, initiating a 90-day public comment period that began when the Federal Register posted a Notice of Availability on June 28, 2019. This revision provides an opportunity for forest stakeholders to share comments and priorities that they would like to see addressed in the updated Land Management Plan.

A formal letter from the Board of Supervisors requesting that the Land Management Plan take action regarding the Merced River Trail is an impactful way of both expressing the community's support for this legacy project, and shaping the document that guides decision-making in Sierra National Forest.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has routinely approved letters of support for issues that they believe will benefit the citizens of Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Individual Board members may write their own letters of support if not approved here, which may not carry the same weight as a letter from the entire Board.

ATTACHMENTS:

190910 SNF Comment Letter (DOCX)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

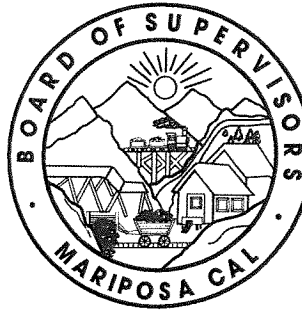
MOVER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

SECONDER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor

AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 ... ROSEMARIE SMALLCOMBE
District 2 MERLIN JONES
District 3 MARSHALL LONG
District 4 KEVIN CANN
District 5 MILES MENETREY



DALLIN KIMBLE
County Administrative Officer

RENÉ LAROCHE
Clerk of the Board

P. O. Box 784
Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 966-3222
(800) 736-1252
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www.mariposacounty.org/board

September 24, 2019

Sierra National Forest Headquarters
1600 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93611

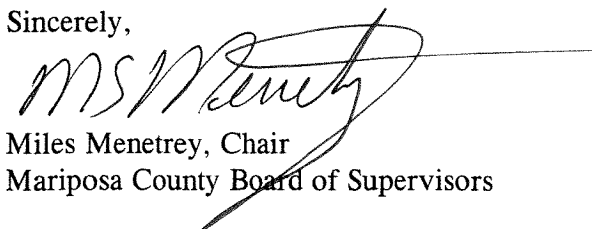
To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of Mariposa County and the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, I write to express support for the Merced River Trail, a multi-use trail on the historic rail grade along the northern banks of the Merced River. Mariposa County has long identified this project as a significant opportunity for trail development, and has recently made it a central element of the community's recreation, public health, economic development, and creative placemaking agendas. As momentum continues to grow behind this project, our hope is that Sierra National Forest will continue to collaborate with Stanislaus National Forest, Mariposa County, the Bureau of Land Management, National Parks Service, and committed trail advocates from throughout the region to implement this legacy project, and take whatever steps are necessary make this shared community vision a reality.

I believe it is important for the land management plan to acknowledge the Merced River Trail as a potential future project, and to reference the project whenever appropriate in the document. I also hope that, by addressing this project's enormous potential for communities in the Merced River watershed, the forest's management plan will pave the way for the trail to be designated, designed, and ultimately implemented in accordance with the Wild and Scenic River Act.

On behalf of our community, thank you for considering our comments. We look forward to working with you to protect and enjoy our public lands.

Sincerely,



Miles Menetrey, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors