



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors · 209-966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-627

MEETING: November 5, 2019
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
RE: Letter of Support to YARTS

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Letter of Support to Yosemite Area Regional Transit System (YARTS) for Their Application to The California Secretary of Transportation Agency (CalSTA) for The 2020 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Grant for the Purchase of Six (6) Battery Electric Over-the-Road Coach Buses and Solar Mobile Charging System; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter.

YARTS has been providing visitors and its surrounding gateway communities with comfortable, economical, convenient and reliable alternative to driving since 2000.

The TIRCP Cycle 4 is a five year program that will allow its applicants access to receive funds that are estimated between \$450 - 500 Million which will begin FY 2020-2021 and end FY 2024-2025. The application for six battery electric buses will allow YARTS to begin the transition to a zero emissions fleet which will be required to begin by 2024 with 100% zero emission fleets by 2040 per the California Air Resource Board.

TIRCP was created by SB 862 (Chapter 36, Statutes of 2014) and Modified by SB 9 (Chapter 710, Statutes of 2015). It was put into place to provide grants from the Greenhouse Reduction Fund (GGRF) to help reduce greenhouse emissions. TIRCP was originally presented in December of 2014 and the First Call of Projects was in 2015. Assembly Bill 398 (Chapter 135) extended the Cap and Trade Program that supports the continuance of TIRCP from 2020-2030.

The objectives of TIRCP that relate to our county are:

1. Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
2. Expand and improve transit service to increase ridership; and
3. Improve transit safety

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YARTS is a small rural public transit agency in which having the funding for capital purchase can prove difficult. This grant will offer the opportunity to bring "clean transit" to its community members as well as the millions of visitors we receive each year. For these reason, we should send a letter in support of their efforts to enhance our the County's only transit system as well as their attempts to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

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

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve the letter. Individual members of the Board may write their own letters of support.

ATTACHMENTS:

YARTS Letter of Support (DOCX)

Request for Letter of Support (DOCX)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

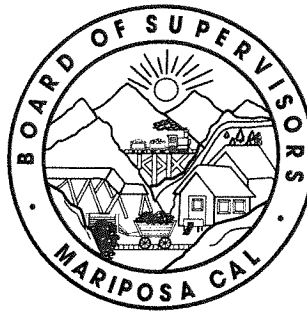
MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor

SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I 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

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November 5, 2019

Chad Edison
CalSTA
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350B
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: YARTS Application - 2020 TIRCP

Dear Mr. Edison,

Since its start in May 2000, the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) has been providing visitors to Yosemite National Park and the surrounding gateway communities with a comfortable, economical, convenient and reliable alternate to driving. YARTS provides regularly-scheduled public transit service along its routes in over-the-road accessible coaches.

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors would like to express its complete support for the YARTS application to CalSTA for the 2020 TIRCP grant for the purchase of six (6) battery electric over-the-road coach buses and solar powered mobile charging systems.

YARTS has an ambitious agenda to assist with increasing the sustainability of public lands, specifically Yosemite National Park. To meet these goals, one of the many efforts YARTS has recently begun is research on the incorporation of zero-emission vehicles into the agency's public fleet. We believe that introducing zero emission vehicles in the fleet will help achieve the agency's goals of providing "clean transit" and serve as a model to other transportation agencies that operate services to and within our national parks.

As a small rural public transit agency, funding for capital purchases can be most challenging. We believe that the opportunity presented through this grant program, will not only make a difference to our agency financially but also will be a key contributor to reducing local emissions. There are benefits to be gained to YARTS as an agency, the riders and the environment as a whole.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this project.

Respectfully Submitted,



Miles Menetrey
Chair, Mariposa County Board of Supervisors