



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors • (209) 966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-668

MEETING: November 26, 2019
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Miles Menetrey, District V Supervisor
RE: Letter of Support for Fire Safe Council Grant Application

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Letter of Support for Mariposa County Fire Safe Council's Submission of a Fire Prevention Grant Application for the implementation of Firewise sites and hazard fuel reduction project planning; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter (Supervisor Menetrey)

This project would allow Mariposa County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) to offer technical and logistical support and resources to two communities located in Very High Hazard areas in the county: Midpines and Fish Camp. MCFSC will provide focused resources and assistance to quickly implement Firewise certified sites in these communities, with outreach that teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action now to prevent losses. This grant will also fund assessments by professional foresters to create plans for community-scale fuel reduction projects on private lands. This effort supports projects listed in the CAL FIRE 2019 Strategic Fire Plan for California and the 2019 MMU Unit Strategic Fire Plan.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has approved letters in support of other efforts that will benefit the County or its residents.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

FWC Letter of Support_RequestBOS_FINAL (DOCX)
FWC Letter of Support_BOS (DOC)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Marshall Long, District III 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

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www.mariposacounty.org/board

November 26, 2019

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Fire Prevention Grants Program
P. O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Re: Letter of Support for 19-FP-MMU-2034 – Focused Support for Strategic FireWise
Community Project Implementation

To Whom It May Concern:

We are pleased to support Mariposa County Fire Safe Council's Fire Prevention Program grant application, "Focused Support for Strategic FireWise Community Project Implementation (#19-FP-MMU- 2034). Mariposa County is one of the hardest hit counties in the Sierra Nevada, suffering from the consequences of drought, tree mortality, flooding, and catastrophic wildfires since 2012. State and Federal agencies are investing millions of dollars in forest health and fuel reduction projects, and many individual landowners are putting their own resources into reducing the fuel loading on their property, but a concerted neighborhood-level effort will be required to protect public health and safety.

This project would work with communities in two of our county's "Very High Hazard" areas to provide focused resources and assistance in organizing Firewise sites and prepare for community-scale projects on private lands. Fish Camp has long-standing community infrastructure in place, and Midpines has a small but dedicated group of residents ready to move forward to implement projects which are listed in the CAL FIRE's 2019 Strategic Fire Plan for California and Cal Fire's MMU Unit Strategic Fire Plan. This project will also complement and enhance a Regional FireWise Community Outreach program proposal being submitted by the Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Commission by offering additional support and resources to two communities that are ready to become Firewise quickly and implement fuel reduction projects.

The Mariposa County Fire Safe Council has assisted over 12,000 Mariposa County residents and completed over 40 major fuel reduction projects since its establishment in 1998. The Council has a long and successful track record for grant administration and collaboration with government agencies, such as CAL FIRE, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Mariposa County Fire,

Mariposa County Sheriff's Office, Mariposa County Resource Conservation District, PG&E and many more. Awarding this grant would allow the Fire Safe Council to demonstrate success, learn about barriers and challenges to establishing Firewise sites in our county, and get projects on the ground quickly in strategically important areas for fire prevention and protection. It is also a critical first step toward mitigating the homeowner's insurance crisis impacting our residents in the wildland urban interface. We urge you to award a Fire Prevention grant to the Mariposa Fire Safe Council to implement a focused support program for strategic FireWise community project implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miles Menefey", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Miles Menefey, Chair
Mariposa County
Board of Supervisors