



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Administration • 966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-729

MEETING: December 17, 2019
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer
RE: MID Settlement Budget Action

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Budget Action Transferring \$1.09 Million from the MID Settlement Fund for Creek Parkway Land Acquisition, a Water Project Feasibility Study, a Master Parks and Resiliency Plan and Parking Easements.

In November 2017, Mariposa County settled a legal dispute with Merced Irrigation District (MID) that, among other things, awarded the County a one-time payment of \$1.5 million, a percentage of MID sales up to \$300,000 annually for thirty (30) years and an escrow of up to \$18 million for a future water project.

MID settlement funds have been isolated in the budget to preserve the Board's ability to be intentional and strategic with settlement dollars. An initial allocation was used to help finance a new financial system (\$200,000), support Government Center roof replacement (\$113,000), design a place brand (\$53,000), repair the El Portal swimming pool (\$50,000), provide matching funds for the Detwiler Fire response (\$50,000) and redesign the County website (\$11,000). The remaining balance in the MID Settlement Fund is \$1,504,041.

Previous Board direction regarding these funds encourages spending focused on one-time, non-operational expenses that leave a positive, enduring impact. To the extent possible, staff would also like these funds to create opportunities for additional revenue that will magnify the effect and deliver desirable amenities.

In order to meet the objectives set forth by the Board, staff recommends MID settlement allocations for the following projects:

\$250,000 for a water project feasibility study. As mentioned previously, the County is entitled to up to \$18 million in funds for a water project in Mariposa County. This allocation would allow the County, or the County Water Agency, to begin the process of investigating possible projects to determine which options will be most feasible and beneficial to the county.

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\$150,000 for a master parks and resiliency plan. With the passage of Proposition 68, significant grant dollars have been and will continue to be made available for recreation projects. The California Department of Parks and Recreation has advised cities and counties that many of the upcoming grant dollars will be contingent on the existence of a recently adopted master parks and resiliency plan. Allocating these funds will make the County eligible to apply for several million dollars that can be used for projects across the county.

\$450,000 for parking easements. The County was recently awarded a \$6.3 million grant for road and infrastructure work in downtown Mariposa. Staff is also in discussions with potential developers interested in significant capital investment that would add demand for parking in the downtown area. Both projects would be complemented by the acquisition of additional parking easements for the Mariposa Parking District.

\$240,000 for Mariposa Creek Parkway land acquisition. The County is in discussions with the Sierra Foothill Conservancy for assistance acquiring four parcels encompassing more than 350 acres along the Mariposa Creek Parkway. The potential agreement intends to not only secure ownership of land for the Creek Parkway project at a fraction of the cost of an outright purchase, but would also secure more build-able land for a new sheriff's station, improves the County's position in applying for up to \$2 million in additional recreation grants to complete the Mariposa Creek Parkway and associated trails, and provides additional land in and around a developed portion of the county for recreation, housing and/or economic development.

Each of these projects meets Board criteria for a positive, lasting effect. Listed projects also create opportunities to secure additional revenue and desirable amenities for Mariposa County. Accordingly, staff recommends approval of the budget action as presented.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board considers budget requests on a regular basis. No allocations for the MID Settlement Fund were made in the current budget.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve the budget action. Listed projects will need alternate revenue sources to move forward.

Amend the budget action. The Board can modify the budget action as desired.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This action transfers money from the MID Settlement Fund to appropriate budgets for desired projects

ATTACHMENTS:



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Budget Action Form (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
SECONDER: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey

