



# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Administration • 966-3222



## RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-730

MEETING: December 17, 2019  
TO: The Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer  
RE: Sierra Foothill Conservancy Land Acquisition Agreement

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### RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve an Agreement with Sierra Foothill Conservancy for Land Acquisition Services (\$240,000); and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Agreement.

A staff report is attached for review. Staff recommends approval of the agreement.

### BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has supported efforts to expand the Mariposa Creek Parkway in the past.

### ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve. The County can use General Fund dollars, seek grants without the aid of Sierra Foothill Conservancy or abandon plans to expand the Mariposa Creek Parkway. Any of these options will likely delay the County's ability to move forward on Parkway expansion.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT:

**This action would encumber up to \$240,000 of MID funds for land acquisition**

### ATTACHMENTS:

**Staff Report (DOCX)**  
**Sierra Foothill Conservancy Agreement (DOCX)**  
**Mariposa Area Map (PDF)**

**RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**

**MOVER:** Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor

**SECONDER:** Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor

**AYES:** Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey

# MARIPOSA COUNTY

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Mariposa County Strategic Plan Objective 4.1 directs staff to "increase the number and mileage of publicly accessible trails". Additional objectives encourage "sustainable management of natural resources" and development of infrastructure and amenities that contribute to Mariposa as an attractive place for families to live, work and play.

One effort that bridges these strategic plan objectives is the development of the Mariposa Creek Parkway. Extending the Parkway would enlarge a community amenity accessible to all ages, provide environmental and health benefits to our community, and possibly create economic development opportunities. This project has been recently revitalized with grants and public events focused on gathering public input and designing the Parkway to best meet the needs of Mariposans.

A significant obstacle to the development of the Mariposa Creek Parkway is the need to have control of the land where it is located either through ownership or easements. Some landowners along the path have made clear that they are willing to sell, but not provide easements to their property.

Acquisition of four properties would secure the land for the Mariposa Creek Parkway and present some additional opportunities for the County. These properties are commonly known as the Fiske property, the Hulbert property, the Clark property and the Pfremer property. These four properties total over 350 acres and are cumulatively valued in excess of \$1.5 million.

This agreement is an attempt to acquire the needed properties at a much lower cost to the County. If approved, the agreement allows Sierra Foothill Conservancy to lead the effort to obtain funding and acquire the four named properties with little or no General Fund dollars. Payments to Sierra Foothill Conservancy would be based on performance and achievements of milestones. The County would be the sole owners of the property after each transaction is complete.

Understanding that some grant funds may have restrictions on the way acquired

property can be used, staff will be working with Sierra Foothill Conservancy to provide input on the type of funds that should be sought. The Board retains the ability to refuse a transaction if terms of acquisition are undesirable.

Once transactions are complete, the County will be able to complete several valuable projects. Extension of the Mariposa Creek Parkway from its current end to the Mariposa County Jail is the first goal of this agreement. Acquiring these properties would also allow for the establishment of a shaded fuel break on the hillside adjacent to Mariposa, additional trails along the ridge and between the ridge and Parkway, land for future housing development, a more level potential site for a new Mariposa County Sheriff's Office and potential economic development opportunities.

There is some risk associated with this agreement. It is possible that the County could spend up to \$120,000 and not be able to secure any of the intended properties. This risk is present but unlikely. Sierra Foothill Conservancy has already begun working on the County's behalf and some grants have already been received. Because the acquisition of even one property delivers more in value than the amount being risked, it is very unlikely that even a partially successful effort would yield less benefit than cost.

Given the above, staff recommends approval of the agreement with Sierra Foothill Conservancy.