DEPARTMENT: Administration  
BY: Rick Benson  
PHONE: 966-3222

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve contract for services with the Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce to operate the Visitors’ Center and provide Courthouse tour guides in the amount of $168,442; and authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign the contract. For several years, Mariposa County has contracted with the Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce to operate the County’s two Visitors’ Centers (Mariposa and Coulterville). The Visitors’ Centers are an important part of the County’s efforts to welcome tourists to the area and the Chamber has performed well in providing this service.

Last year’s contract contained several upgrades to both of the Visitors’ Centers including the addition of computers with Internet access, and new furniture and carpet in the Mariposa Visitors’ Center. These upgrades have been completed and provide an enhanced experience for our visitors. The only other significant change in this year’s contract is an increase in maintenance costs at the Mariposa Visitors’ Center. This increase will allow for outside grounds-keeping which has been noted as a point of concern in the past.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board adopted Resolution 07-313 on June 26, 2007, approving a contract with the Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce to operate the County’s Visitors’ Centers and provide Courthouse tour guides in the amount of $166,645. The contract amount was later amended to $170,585 during Final Budget Hearings to allow for the upgrades.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not approve the contract. The Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce will in all likelihood have insufficient funding to operate the Visitors’ Centers. The Board may choose to contract with another entity to provide these services, which may necessitate identifying other locations for the Visitors’ Centers.

Financial Impact? (X) Yes ( ) No  Current FY Cost: $168,442  
Budgeted In Next FY? (X) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded  
Amount in Budget: $168,442  
Additional Funding Needed: $0.00  
Source:
Internal Transfer
Unanticipated Revenue ______ 4/5’s vote
Transfer Between Funds ______ 4/5’s vote
Contingency ______ 4/5’s vote
( ) General ( ) Other

List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Contract
Letter from Chamber
Explanation of Grounds Keeping

CLERK’S USE ONLY:
Vote – Ayes: _____  Noes: ___
Absent: ______
Approved
Minute Order Attached ( ) No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.
Date: __________

Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa, State of California
By: __________________________
Deputy

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

[Signature]
Requested Action Recommended
No Opinion
Comments:

CAO: __________________________
Revised Dec. 2002
COUNTY of MARIPOSA
P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222

LYLE TURPIN, CHAIR                  DISTRICT II
DIANNE A. FRITZ, VICE CHAIR          DISTRICT IV
BRAD ABORN                           DISTRICT I
JANET BIBBY                          DISTRICT III
BOB PICKARD                          DISTRICT V

MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO:  RICHARD J. BENSON, CAO
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT: Approve an Agreement with Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce to Operate the Visitors’ Center and Provide Courthouse Tour Guides in the Amount of $168,442 and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Agreement

RESOLUTION 08-284

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on June 24, 2008

ACTION AND VOTE:

Approve an Agreement with Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce to Operate the Visitors’ Center and Provide Courthouse Tour Guides in the Amount of $168,442 and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Agreement (County Administrative Officer/Personnel/Risk Manager)

BOARD ACTION: Discussion was held with Rick Benson relative to the agreement and he clarified that the agreement with the Chamber is for operation of the Visitors’ Center. Discussion was held relative to the inclusion of a financial review of the Chamber’s operation versus a formal audit, inclusion of the ground keeping services, and relative to the statistics for the visitors’ services.

Dorothy Kuhnle, Executive Director for the Chamber of Commerce, provided input and responded to the questions that were raised. She read a statement from the Chamber’s Board of Directors clarifying that agreement is for operation of the Visitors’ Center and not to subsidize the Chamber. She advised that she will provide additional information to the Board on the visitors’ statistics.

Input from the public was provided by the following:

Paul Chapman questioned whether the contract for services was put out to bid, commented on the audit requirements, and stated he feels it would be best to use the funds for fire trucks.

Dick Hutchinson expressed concern with the lack of public restrooms at the Visitors’ Center; and he stated he feels the County should work with the Chamber and VFW to build restroom facilities. He commented on the importance of maintaining the grounds for public appearance; and he commented on staffing concerns with the Visitors’ Center.

Paul Hall, Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce, responded to Mr. Hutchinson’s concerns relative to staffing and the restrooms.

Chair Turpin asked the County Administrative Officer to review the status of the public restroom situation and the potential. Discussion was held. Supervisor Bibby stated she could support the funding for the summer, with further consideration to be given during the final budget hearings when the status of the Proposition 218 ballot tabulation for the fire equipment is known. (M)Fritz, (S)Pickard, Res. 08-284 was adopted approving the agreement. Further discussion was held.
Additional input from the public was provided by the following:

Paul Hall provided input on the need for the services for the tourists.
Dorothy Kuhnel responded to questions relative to their use of the copying machine.
MaryAnn Huff, President of the Chamber of Commerce, provided input on the costs to obtain an audit, and advised that they have contracted for the financial report. She commented on the importance of tourism to the County and noted that the Chamber of Commerce is a professional partner.
Jeanetta Phillips stated she feels the audit should be made public and expressed concern with the public being able to review the minutes of the Chamber’s meetings.
MaryAnn Huff responded and advised that the Chamber’s records are available in their office.
Dorothy Kuhnel responded and advised that the Chamber’s meetings are open to the public.
Candy O’Donel-Browne noted that the Visitors’ Center has been helping with fire companies that are coming into town.

Cc: Chris Ebie, Auditor
Chamber of Commerce
File