RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve the Agreement between Mariposa County and the University of California Regents to support the Master Gardener Program in Mariposa County. The Master Gardener Program in Mariposa County provides science based education and research information to residents of Mariposa County.

Please see the attachment for justification.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
On February 26, 2008, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to support the Master Gardener Program Coordinator for part of fiscal year 07/08. This position supported by a lump sum payment to the University of California for a set amount of funding, transferring personnel responsibilities and liabilities to the University of California.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Financial Impact? (X) Yes ( ) No  Current FY Cost: $ 12,125  Annual Recurring
Cost: $21,900
Budgeted In Current FY? (X) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded
Amount in Budget: $12,125
Additional Funding Needed: $
Source:
Internal Transfer
Unanticipated Revenue
Transfer Between Funds
Contingency
( ) General ( ) Other

CLERK’S USE ONLY:
Res. No.: # 370  Ord. No.
Vote – Ayes:  Nocs:  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

Revised Dec. 2002
MINUTE ORDER

TO: SCOTT ONETO, Acting Farm Advisor
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT: Approve Agreement Between Mariposa County and University of California Regents to Support the Master Gardener Program

RESOLUTION 08-370

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on August 5, 2008

ACTION AND VOTE:

Approve Agreement Between Mariposa County and University of California Regents to Support the Master Gardener Program (Farm Advisor)

BOARD ACTION: Discussion was held with Scott Oneto, Tuolumne County Farm Advisor and County Director, relative to the request. Scott Oneto provided input on the process to fill the Farm Advisor position for Mariposa County, and advised that he will assist in the interim. Discussion was held relative to the costs for the Master Gardener coordinator and how those costs are covered.

Input from the public was provided by the following:

Paul Chapman stated he feels the University of California should pay for this program.

Further discussion was held. Supervisor Bibby suggested that this should be considered with the final budget hearing process. Rick Benson advised that the requested amount for the agreement is requested in the FY 2008-09 budget. (M)Pickard, (S)Aborn, Res. 08-370 was adopted approving the agreement/Ayes: Aborn, Turpin, Fritz, Pickard; Noes: Bibby.

Cc: File
Master Gardener Coordinator for Mariposa County

The Master Gardener Program was established to be a support to the Mariposa County Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor in extending University of California research-based horticulture information, through education, to the home gardening public.

A Master Gardener Program Coordinator was initially hired by the University of California from November 2004 until December 31, 2007, as a 50% FTE. When the funding was no longer available from the University of California, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors stepped up to the challenge and funded the Master Gardener Coordinator for the balance of the fiscal year. For the 08/09 fiscal year, grant funding was obtained to partially support the Master Gardener Coordinator position. Therefore, this agreement is only requesting $12,125.00, not the full amount of $21,900 that a 50% FTE would normally require.

Volunteer time is valued by the IRS at $17/hour. However, trained volunteers, like the Master Gardeners are valued by the IRS at $27/hour. We are on target for the value of the service of Master Gardeners to Mariposa County to exceed $100,000 for this fiscal year.

Current projects for 2008-2009 include

- Mariposa Creek Parkway
- Improvement of Mariposa Creek Parkway with Interactive Educational Signage
- Evaluation of additional native plants for suitability in the foothills
- School Gardens
- Numerous Public Workshops
- Mariposa County Fair
- Farmers Market outreach
- Home and Garden Show
- Library Indoor Plant Test Site
- Nursery Displays
- Telephone Help Desk
- Master Gardener office in North County

The Master Gardeners are also working to secure a site for a demonstration garden for greater outreach and hands on education of the public.

A Master Gardener Program Manager and Coordinator will maintain the momentum of the Master Gardener Program, develop new program thrusts, e.g. the demonstration garden, water quality and conservation, composting, and landscaping amongst the oak trees while continuing to free up time for the Farm Advisor to address commercial ag production. This position is especially critical during the time that Mariposa County has only an interim County Director/Farm Advisor.
Responsibilities/Tasks of the Coordinator

1. Provide research-based information and knowledge to home horticulture clientele.
2. Train and guide Master Gardener volunteers in the organization of their activities, duties and events.
3. Recruit volunteers and provide training to those volunteers.
4. Provide a liaison between UCCE and the community relative to home horticulture and the Master Gardener Program.
5. Design, develop and implement education outreach programs appropriate for the county and the community needs.
6. Develop information for and prepare necessary reports, newsletters and correspondence with the Master Gardener clientele, Master Gardeners, and for those that are involved in the supervision of this position.
7. Implements Master Gardener outreach and publicity efforts in the community. Promote in all ways consistent with the other responsibilities of the position, accomplishments of the Affirmative Action goals established by UCCE.
8. Provides and coordinates training activities for volunteer Master Gardeners in the areas of communication, horticulture, pest management, presentation and leadership.
9. Participate in statewide Master Gardener Program Management activities and training opportunities.
10. Evaluate, track and report Master Gardener Program activities in the county. Develop and recommend new or modification to activities and events.