RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Authorize the County Administrative Officer to request emergency watershed protection assistance from the State Conservationist. Because of the loss of vegetation due to the Telegraph Fire, there is a considerable amount of land that is at risk for severe erosion. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a program designed to assist landowners in reducing imminent hazards to life and property caused by fires and other natural disasters. In order to take advantage of the program, the County must make a written request to the USDA requesting assistance. If approved, the County will be required to provide a twenty-five percent (25%) match which may be satisfied through in-kind contributions.

Attached is additional information regarding the program.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
When appropriate, the County has requested aid from various Federal and State agencies.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not authorize the County Administrative Officer to request emergency watershed protection assistance from the State Conservationist. The County would not be able to take advantage of this program, which may put additional pressure on local resources regarding controlling the possible erosion.

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Financial Impact? ( ) Yes ( ) No
Current FY Cost: $

Annual Recurring Cost: $

Budgeted In Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded

Amount in Budget: $

Additional Funding Needed: $

Source:

Internal Transfer
Unanticipated Revenue 4/5's vote
Transfer Between Funds 4/5's vote
Contingency 4/5's vote

( ) General ( ) Other

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CLERK'S USE ONLY:
Res. No. 08-005
Vote – Ayes: 5
Nos: 0

Absent: 

Approved

Minute Order Attached ( ) No Action Necessary

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

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

Revised Dec. 2002

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Requested Action Recommended ( ) No Opinion

Comments:


cAO: [Signature]

COUNTY of MARIPosa
P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222
LYLE TURPIN, CHAIR
DIANNE A. FRITZ, VICE CHAIR
BRAD ABORN
JANET BIBBY
BOB PICKARD

MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: RICHARD J. BENSON, CAO
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT: Authorize the County Administrative Officer to Request Emergency Watershed Protection Assistance from the State Conservationist

RESOLUTION 08-388

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on August 12, 2008

ACTION AND VOTE:

11:54 a.m. Authorize the County Administrative Officer to Request Emergency Watershed Protection Assistance from the State Conservationist (County Administrative Officer/Personnel/Risk Manager)

BOARD ACTION: Rick Benson provided input on the request. Dawn Afman, District Conservationist – USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, provided input on the assistance program and advised of the work they have done with the landowners. She advised that the Resource Conservation District Office has wildflower seeds available at a discount for those that were affected by the fire. (M)Pickard, (S)Aborn, Res. 08-388 was adopted approving the request for Emergency Watershed Protection Assistance, with direction given for a summary of the Telegraph Fire to be included in the request, with further direction for the request to be copied to Senators Boxer and Feinstein and to Congressman Radanovich and that assistance be sought to make these funds available as soon as possible due to the potential impact on the Merced River and downstream to the Exchequer and McSwain Dams/Ayes: Unanimous.

Cc: File
Reducing Imminent Hazards

ERWP

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

www.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

STATE CONSERVATIONIST

Address:

440 C Street, #114
Davis, CA 95616-4164

Phone: 530-752-7030

All applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

How do I get assistance?

If you are interested in assisting and are able to contribute funds, you may set up a matching fund program. Contact your local NRCS office for more information.

The NRCS program offers financial assistance for the enhancement of the quality of the soil and water resources of the United States. The program is designed to reduce the potential of soil erosion and pollution of surface and groundwater resources. The program also provides financial assistance for the improvement and maintenance of livestock facilities and pastures, and the control of forest fires and livestock protection.
WHAT EWP CANT DO

EWP work is not intended exclusively to any one set of overflow problems. EWP work can identify the necessary in-kind funds required to perform work. EWP work cannot be used to expand or reduce the capacity of EWP work. EWP work cannot address the effects of downstream flow. EWP work cannot address the effects of upstream flow. EWP work cannot initiate or implement new projects. EWP work cannot be used to initiate or implement new projects. EWP work cannot be used to initiate or implement new projects. EWP work cannot be used to initiate or implement new projects. EWP work cannot be used to initiate or implement new projects.

WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE?

In-kind assistance can be from federal, state, or local government or organizations. In-kind assistance can be from federal, state, or local government or organizations. In-kind assistance can be from federal, state, or local government or organizations. In-kind assistance can be from federal, state, or local government or organizations. In-kind assistance can be from federal, state, or local government or organizations. In-kind assistance can be from federal, state, or local government or organizations. In-kind assistance can be from federal, state, or local government or organizations.

WHAT DOES THE SPONSOR HAVE TO DO?

- Resolving of damaged areas.
- Repair of levees and structures.
- Collection of damaged drainage facilities.
- Knocking and preparing of concrete blocks.
- Supply and distribution of required materials.

WHAT IS ELIGIBLE?

- Recreational areas.
- Flood control and drainage facilities.
- Reservoirs and other natural disaster property.

WHAT IS NOT ELIGIBLE?

- Recreational areas.
- Flood control and drainage facilities.
- Reservoirs and other natural disaster property.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR ASSISTANCE?

- In-kind assistance can be from federal, state, or local government or organizations.
- In-kind assistance can be from federal, state, or local government or organizations.
- In-kind assistance can be from federal, state, or local government or organizations.
- In-kind assistance can be from federal, state, or local government or organizations.
- In-kind assistance can be from federal, state, or local government or organizations.
- In-kind assistance can be from federal, state, or local government or organizations.
- In-kind assistance can be from federal, state, or local government or organizations.

WHAT IS THE EWP PROGRAM?

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) is a program designed to help people mitigate the effects of natural disasters. The program is managed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is funded through a combination of federal and local resources. EWP work must reduce threats to life and property and protect economic and public health. EWP work must be completed within 60 days of the disaster event.
August 15, 2008

Dawn Afman  
District Conservationist  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Post Office Box 746  
Mariposa, California 95338

RE: Telegraph Fire

Dear Dawn:

On August 12, 2008, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors authorized me to request the United Stated Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provide assistance to the residents of the County of Mariposa through the Emergency Watershed Program (EWP). The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors is requesting assistance due to the recently concluded Telegraph Fire (July 25, 2008, - August 4, 2008) that consumed over 30,000 acres of vegetation in Mariposa County. Because of this fire there is a dangerous threat of severe erosion to a considerable amount of land.

Please consider this letter a formal request for assistance in the EWP and that the County of Mariposa will be a sponsor for this program. Additionally, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors understands that there is a twenty-five percent match for participation in the EWP.

Thank you for your assistance in processing this request and please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

RICHARD J. BENSON  
County Administrative Officer

cc: Dianne Feinstein, Senator  
Barbara Boxer, Senator  
George Radanovich, Congress Member  
State Conservationist

bcc: Board of Supervisors  
Margie Williams, Clerk of the Board