**MARISPOS A COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**AGENDA ACTION FORM**  
**DATE:** August 26, 2008  
**AGENDA ITEM NO.**  

**DEPARTMENT:** Board of Supervisors  
**BY:** Supervisor Pickard  
**PHONE:** 966-3222

**RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Approve a Letter of Support for Mariposa County Resource Conservation District's Grant Application for the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

The Board has approved similar letters in the past

**ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Impact?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Current FY Cost: $</th>
<th>Annual Recurring Cost: $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budgeted in Current FY?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Partially Funded</td>
<td>List Attachments, number pages consecutively</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount in Budget:</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Funding Needed:</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Source:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Internal Transfer</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unanticipated Revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td>4/5's vote</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer Between Funds</td>
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<td>4/5's vote</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contingency</td>
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<td>4/5's vote</td>
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<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>Other</td>
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</table>

**CLERK'S USE ONLY:**

Res. No. 28 - 9/19  
Vote - Ayes: 5  
Noes: 0  
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:**

Requested Action Recommended  
No Opinion  
Comments:  

CAO:  

Revised Dec. 2002
TO: SUPERVISOR PICKARD
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Approve a Letter of Support for Mariposa County Resource Conservation District’s Grant Application for the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter

RESOLUTION 08-419

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on August 26, 2008

ACTION AND VOTE:

Supervisor Pickard;
Approve a Letter of Support for Mariposa County Resource Conservation District’s Grant Application for the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter

BOARD ACTION: Supervisor Pickard reviewed the request. Chair Turpin advised that the Water Agency Advisory Board approved supporting this request. Terry McLaughlin, Upper Merced River Watershed Council, gave a presentation on the request on behalf of the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District (RCD). Discussion was held.

Input from the public was provided by the following:

Michael Martin stated he is a toxicologist by training and worked for the Fish and Game Department; and he represents the Merced Fly Fishing Club as a Conservation Director, the Merced River Conservation Committee as a member and the Mariposa Fish and Game Club – he is the Game Committee Chair. He commented on the importance of water and its quality, quantity and planning; and he advised that they support this request.

Sandy Wright, San Joaquin Valley Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, advised that they support this; and she feels that the Plan will be a living document and can continue to be developed.

Ruth Sellers asked what the water testing on the Upper Merced River is for, what is being found, and what is being done about what is found. She asked what the funds are being spent on and what is being accomplished.

Paul Chapman stated he feels that we need a water management plan for the whole County, not just the Merced River.

Chair Turpin requested that as this project moves forward, that Len McKenzie of the RCD provide status reports with more information to the Board. (M)Pickard, (S)Bibby, Res. 08-419 was adopted approving the letter of support as requested/Ayes: Unanimous.

Cc: Water Agency Advisory Board
    Len McKenzie, C/o Terry McLaughlin
August 15, 2008

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
P. O. Box 729
Mariposa, CA 95338

Dear Board Members:

The Mariposa County Resource Conservation District board of directors voted at our regular meeting August 7 to submit a grant proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for a Mariposa County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) launch project. We are asking the Board of Supervisors for a letter of support for this proposal and a commitment to participate in the planning process should the grant application be approved.

IRWMP is the state’s latest management strategy to address multiple water issues, coordinate across jurisdictional boundaries, develop high cost-benefit projects, reduce conflicts among stakeholders, strengthen relationships, streamline funding disbursal to distinct regions, and promote a sustainable, efficient approach to water management by bringing together interests, issues and solutions.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is allocating millions of dollars from Propositions 50 and 84 for IRWM planning and implementation. Up to $1M is available for a planning grant. A total of $57M has been allocated to the San Joaquin River Funding Area for implementation. An additional $100M (P84) in interregional unallocated funds is also available for distribution. **This is the only opportunity to tap this source of substantial funding for water management for the next five years.** Areas not identified in an IRWMP cannot access this fund source for water resource management. **Mariposa County is one of those areas.**

The IRWMP process offers multiple benefits. It develops a collaborative, non-regulatory, consensus-based watershed-management approach to addressing current water resource issues and future impacts. It also builds capacity and cooperation regionally by involving a broad range of stakeholders, promotes an integrated approach to state and federal water resource regulations, and provides access to additional funding opportunities. The process requires consideration of potential resource management strategies that could reduce water demand, improve operational efficiency, increase water supply, improve water quality and strengthen resource stewardship.

We need to act now to assure Mariposa County doesn’t miss this funding opportunity. DWR has indicated this will be the only grant cycle in its $1B allocation to fund water management strategies over the next five years. We trust you will support this grant application and will commit to participate in the process to develop a plan that will protect Mariposa County’s capacity to control and direct the management of our water resources.

Sincerely,

Leonard McKenzie
MCRCD Board President
August 26, 2008

Board of Directors  
Mariposa County Resource Conservation District  
P. O. Box 746  
Mariposa, CA 95338

Dear Board of Directors:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support your proposal for an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) launch grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The Board agrees that an IRWMP has the potential to bring significant benefits to Mariposa County, and assuming the project is funded, we will participate in the collaborative, consensus-based process to develop that plan.

We understand the overall objective of the Launch Project is to develop a planning grant proposal for submission to the Department of Water Resources’ (DWR) Integrated Regional Water Management Planning program. The Launch Project will host and facilitate a series of meetings in which a broad range of water resource stakeholders will define and justify the appropriate regional boundaries, develop a governance structure, organize a process for stakeholder involvement, develop ideas for data management, and identify existing local plans. The project team will use this information to compose a planning grant proposal for submission to DWR’s IRWMP program.

We also recognize that developing an IRWMP for Mariposa County offers our only opportunity to capitalize on the availability of substantial DWR funding for water resource management. The planning process will require stakeholders’ consideration of potential resource management strategies that could reduce water demand, improve operational efficiency and transfers, increase water supply, improve water quality and strengthen resource stewardship—all potential benefits to the citizens of Mariposa for years to come.

This Launch Project and ultimately the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning are valuable processes that can improve and coordinate water management planning in Mariposa County and the central Sierra, and leverage state funding to apply to water resource issues in the region. We appreciate the MCRCD’s willingness to serve as the fiscal agent in this initial phase of the IRWMP process and look forward to participating as a stakeholder.

Sincerely,

LYLE TURPIN  
Chairman, Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

LT/mj