RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

This is to request your Board’s submittal of a letter of intent to participate in the Fiscal Year 2008 Interoperable Emergency Communication Grant Program. The grant program is funded by the National Protection and Programs Directorate Office of Emergency Communications and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in consultation with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and administered at the state level by the California Governor’s Office of Homeland Security.

Grant funds are allocated to planning areas within the state. Mariposa County is a member of the Central Planning Area along with Kern, Kings, Tulare, Fresno, Madera and Merced Counties. For administration purposes the State has allocated the FY 2008 grant to the Central Planning Area administered by the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) recipient, City of Fresno.

The Central Planning Area group was established in November 2007 to collaborate on the Public Safety Interoperable Communication Grant program. Representatives from all 7 counties and the City of Fresno (UASI) continue to work together on a central valley regional basis to ensure interagency collaboration and cross-discipline coordination to meet the communication needs of first responders statewide. Our representative pertaining to this grant is Undersheriff Binnewies and Captain Robles. This group will coordinate the use of the requested grant funds.

Funding in the amount of $700,000 is available for planning to achieve the goal above. The grant does not require a local match and the lead agency City of Fresno will administer the grant on behalf of the Central Valley Planning Area.

This grant program has been discussed with the CAO and he supports Mariposa County’s involvement.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS: The Board has approved similar grants which positively affect Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION: Communication grants have evolved from being awarded to individual county (Operational area) to Regional area. The trend is that all operational areas (County) within a Region must participate in the grant to further interoperability between areas, providing a benefit to the entire region. If an operational area refuses to participate, the grant awarded to the Region is in jeopardy.

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes ( ) No
Budgeted In Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No
Amount in Budget: $0
Additional Funding Needed: $0

Source:
Internal Transfer
Unanticipated Revenue
Transfer Between Funds
Contingency
( ) General ( ) Other

Annual Recurring Cost: $0

See Attached
CLERK’S USE ONLY:
Res. No. 2002-42
Vote - Ayes: 5  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:
___/\ Requested Action Recommended
___/\ No Opinion
Comments:
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
CAO: __________________________
September 2, 2008

Chief Jerry Dyer, Fresno Police Department
City of Fresno UASI
2323 Mariposa Mall
Fresno, Ca 93721

RE: Letter of Intent – To Participate in the Public Safety Interoperable Communication Grant Program

This letter is to confirm the intention of the County of Mariposa to participate in the Public Safety Interoperable Communication Grant Program (PSIC) in coordination with the Central Planning Area facilitated by the City of Fresno Urban Areas Security Initiative. The Central Valley Planning Area has been designated by the California Governor’s Office of Homeland Security to administer the PSIC Grant Program in coordination with the 7 Central Valley counties.

In addition to the lead agency, City of Fresno, the Central Valley Planning Area counties of Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Merced, Mariposa, and Madera will work together to procure services from a communication consultant to identify improvements to the Central Valley necessary to ensure regional interoperable communications. Upon the consultant’s recommendation, the Central Valley Planning Area members will determine infrastructure or equipment to be installed in each member-county as funding permits.

The City of Fresno has agreed to procure the communication consultant and as financial lead will administer all reimbursement claims. The 2007 grant award allows for planning projects to be reimbursed at 100% while procurement of infrastructure or equipment will require a 20% local match. Upon the recommendation of the communication consultant, the Central Valley Planning Area Committee will determine appropriate implementation according to each member's financial ability and need.

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors has approved participation in the PSIC Grant Program and has authorized the County Administrative Officer to complete all Memoranda of Understanding with the Central Valley participants and any grant documents necessary.

Further, the County Administrative Officer has authorized Undersheriff Doug Binnewies, to represent the County on the Central Valley Planning Committee. Undersheriff Binnewies can be reached at (209) 966-3615 or e-mail him at cbinnewies@mariposacounty.org.
Mariposa County looks forward to a long and successful partnership with the planning area members to improve interoperable communications in the Central Valley.

Sincerely,

LYLE TURPIN
Chairman
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Doug Binnewies, Mariposa County Undersheriff