DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign a letter to the Governor requesting that specific funding be restored in the State Budget for small counties with no incorporated cities. There are currently three counties in California with no incorporated cities – Alpine, Mariposa, and Trinity. Because there are no incorporated cities in these counties they receive an unfair distribution of the Gas and Diesel tax, and the Vehicle License Fee funds. AB 473 that was passed in 1988 recognized this inequity and provided approximately $147,000 to these three counties, of which Mariposa County received $81,000 annually. Funding for AB 473 was deleted from the State Budget two years ago and this letter requests the Governor to restore this funding.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board routinely authorizes the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign letters that support issues that will ultimately benefit the citizens of Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign the letter. Individual Board members may write their own letters requesting the restoration of funding.

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes (X) No Current FY Cost: $  Annual Recurring Cost: $
Budgeted In Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded
Amount in Budget: $  List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Additional Funding Needed: $  Draft Letter
Source:
Internal Transfer
Unanticipated Revenue  4/5's vote
Transfer Between Funds  4/5's vote
Contingency  4/5's vote
( ) General ( ) Other

CLERK’S USE ONLY:
Res. No.:  Ord. No. _____
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:
( ) Requested Action Recommended
( ) No Opinion
Comments:

CAO:

Revised Dec. 2002
December 12, 2006

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Small Counties with No Incorporated Cities Equalization Funding

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your support to restore funding in the State Budget that was authorized in legislation through the passage of AB 473 (Oller) in 1998. AB 473 provided an annual appropriation to Alpine, Mariposa, and Trinity counties as a means to equalize funding for counties with no incorporated cities, and demonstrated that similar services are being delivered by these three counties that are very comparable to cities. However, due to the lack of an incorporated city these three counties are unfairly treated through the existing distribution of the Gas and Diesel Tax, and Vehicle License Fee funds. AB 473 recognized the inequity that exists for counties with no incorporated cities and annually provided a total of $147,000 that was proportioned by population to Alpine, Mariposa, and Trinity counties.

While the funding has been cut now for two budget years the need for these equalizing dollars has not gone away. In fact the need is even greater today due to the lack of other traditional discretionary funding that is used to maintain roads, provide additional hours of operation for the Library, and offset the cost of turnouts for the Volunteer Fire Fighters and the cost of replacement water tenders which are critical in rural areas that do not have water systems. These are only a few of the many examples of services that are in jeopardy each year.

Again, Mariposa County respectfully requests your support to restore this equitable funding to three counties with no incorporated cities. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and please contact Supervisor Bob Pickard at 209-966-3222 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

LEE STETSON
Chairman

LS/BP/mbh
cc: State Senator Dave Cogdill
Assembly Member Tom Berryhill
Ms. Brenda Quintana, Director of Local Govt. & Community Affairs – Governors Office
Ms. Ann Maitland, Department of Finance
Alpine County Board of Supervisors
Trinity County Board of Supervisors
Wes Lujan, Advocacy
Rural Council of Rural Counties
California State Association of Counties