RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve two grant agreements with the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council in the amounts of $51,400 and $27,390 for Title III funding from the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (HR 2389); Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign the grant agreements. The grant for $51,400 is to continue with the Fire Safe Council's efforts in fire prevention education and obtaining grant to mitigate the County's wildfire vulnerability. The second grant for $27,390 is matching grant funds the continuation of the defensible space education/chipping demonstration program. Both agreements will provide funding from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007.

Mariposa County Fire Safe Council's proposal meets the criteria to receive Title III funds because the money will be used for fire prevention and efforts to educate homeowners on the consequences of wildfire. A description of the proposal was published in the publication of record on July 5, 2006, and August 2, 2006, and no public comment had been received when this board item was prepared.

The Forest Reserve Fund (#345) has an unencumbered balance of $314,793 available for allowable Title III projects. These projects include (1) Search and rescue and other emergency services performed on Federal lands and paid for by the County; (2) Community service work camps (inmate community service on Federal lands); (3) Easement purchases; (4) Forest related educational opportunities; (5) Fire prevention and county planning; (5) Community forestry.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board adopted Res. 06-271 tentatively approving the use of Title III funding for Mariposa County Fire Council's proposals pending the completion of the 45-day comment period.

Other Board approved Title III projects include: planning phase of the construction of the Jordan Creek Bridge ($20,988); County-wide chipping education/demonstration project ($80,000); Southwest Interface Project (SWIFT) ($29,988); Mariposa County Fire Safe Council ($46,764); Continued funding for SWIFT ($28,800); Continued funding for Mariposa County Fire Safe Council ($46,567); Fuel reduction program utilizing the California Department of Corrections crews ($8,000); Continued funding of the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council ($26,750).

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not approve the use Title III funds for the Mariposa County Fire Council's projects. The Council will need to solicit funding from other sources to continue their program and to provide matching funding for the chipping project.
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

COUNT:\ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

____ Requested Action Recommended
____ No Opinion
Comments:

CAO: __________________________