TO: MIKE COFFIELD, Interim Budget/Personnel/Risk Manager
THOMAS P. GUARINO, County Counsel

FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Further Action Regarding Continuation of the Local Emergency Due to Landslides on Highway 140 Enroute to Yosemite National Park

RESOLUTION 06-430

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPosa COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on September 12, 2006

ACTION AND VOTE:

10:39 a.m. Discussion and Possible Further Action Regarding Continuation of the Local Emergency Due to Landslides on Highway 140 Enroute to Yosemite National Park (County Counsel/Interim County Administrative Officer)

BOARD ACTION: Kome Ajise, District 10 Director for CalTrans, thanked the Board for the letter of appreciation. He advised that they are working to restore full mobility on Highway 140 and the costs could reach 50 to 100 million dollars. He advised that the next step is to form a project team development committee and they plan to include County staff representation and will keep the Board informed of the status of their work for permanent restoration. Supervisor Pickard asked about the September 5th letter that CalTrans sent to the Board relative to the outline of their plans for the permanent restoration of Highway 140 through the Ferguson Slide area and the estimated timeframe of 36 month to reach the final design phase. Discussion was held, and Kome Ajise provided input on the environmental review requirements. Supervisor Bibby asked about the status of monitoring of the slide activity, and discussion was held. Further discussion was continued for the LAFCo meeting to be opened.

11:00 a.m. Chairman Stetson advised that LAFCo would convene after the following items.

Further discussion was held relative to the Ferguson Slide.
Input from the public was provided by the following:
Harvey Holland stated he lives in the Merced River Canyon and he thanked CalTrans for getting the Highway open. He referred to a geologist report and suggestions that the mountain may slide and create a dam that could close the road for two years. He advised of his concerns and of efforts to obtain flood insurance; and he requested clarification from the Board on why the County does not participate in the Flood Insurance Program. Chairman Stetson advised that he will work with Mr. Holland on this matter.
Supervisor Pickard asked what precautions were being taken to plan for the coming winter weather if increased slide activity occurs. Kome Ajise advised that they have a person monitoring the slide and plan to do so through the winter, as well as a radar monitoring system. Julie Dunning advised that more information on the slide has been gathered since the earlier geologist report that Mr. Holland referred to. Supervisor Bibby asked about the status of funding, and was advised that CalTrans has funding for maintenance.

Supervisor Turpin asked Dave Martin, US Forest Service Sierra National Forest District Ranger, for his input on the status of planning for a catastrophic event. Dave Martin advised that if there is a catastrophic event, they will call the Army Corps of Engineers; however, they feel that this possibility is diminishing. He advised that the U. S. G. S. will be placing a monitoring system for the upper portion of the slide and this should help to better anticipate what the mountain will do.

Chairman Stetson noted that he has a weekly conference call with the Forest Service, Delaware North, the Park Service, and YARTS, and he will keep the Board informed of the status of issues.

(M)Pickard, (S)Turpin, Res. 06-430 was adopted finding the local emergency due to the landslides on Highway 140 enroute to Yosemite National Park continues to exist, and continuing the local emergency based on the findings. Further discussion was held. Ayes: Unanimous.

Cc: Dana Hertfelder, Public Works Director
File