RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve a grant agreement with the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council in the amount of $26,750 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 agreement. The Mariposa County Fire Safe Council will use the funding to continue to conduct fire prevention education outreach and planning programs regarding wild land fires. The grant agreement is from January 1, 2006, through June 30, 2006.

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 wildfires. A description of the proposal was published in the publication of record on January 11, 2006, and February 8, 2006, and no public comments had been received when this board item was prepared.

The Forest Reserve Fund (#345) has an unencumbered balance of $318,589 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; (6) community forestry.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board adopted Res. 05-605 tentatively approved the use of Title III funding for Mariposa County Fire Safe Council’s proposal pending the completion of the 45-day comment period.

The Board has adopted the following Resolutions approving the use of Title III funding for these projects:
Res. 05-221 for the Southwest Interface Project (SWIFT) -- $28,800; continued funding of the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council ($46,567); and a fuel reduction program utilizing the California Department of Corrections crews ($8,000).

Res. 04-73 for the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council ($46,764).

Res. 03-81 for the County-wide chipping program ($80,000) and the SWIFT project ($29,988).

Res. 02-117 for the planning phase of the construction of the Jordan Creek Bridge ($20,988).

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not approve the use of Title III funds for Mariposa County Fire Safe Council’s proposal. The Council will need to solicit funding from other sources to continue their program.
Financial Impact? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded
Current FY Cost: $

Budgeted In Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No
Amount in Budget: $

Additional Funding Needed: $

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. 72  Ord. No. _____
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: ________________