RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2014-77

MEETING: February 25, 2014

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: John Carrier, District V Supervisor

RE: Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council Membership

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve Paying Membership Dues to the Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council in the Amount of $1,000. The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors have been considered a member of the Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council (Y/S RC&DC), although during the last couple of years Board members have not been actively involved in the organization. Membership dues have not been requested for several years, but the organization is now initiating new revenue streams to ensure that they will be able to continue their programs in the future. The Y/S RC&DC has a suggested membership due of $1,000 for Counties. While this membership due has not been budgeted, there is sufficient funding within the service and supply line items to cover the cost during this fiscal year.

Attached is a letter from the Y/S RC&DC explaining the need for membership dues, the suggested membership dues, and a list of current projects.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board had previously paid membership dues to the Y/S RC&DC in 2007/2008 in the amount of $250.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not approve membership dues to the Y/S RC&DC. The organization may not have sufficient funds to carry out their projects, which could have a detrimental effect on certain programs/initiatives in Mariposa County.

ATTACHMENTS:
Yosemite Sequoia RC&DC (PDF)
CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended

Rick Benson, County Administrator/Chief Executive Officer

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: Janet Bibby, District III Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Jones, Bibby, Cann, Carrier
Hello Partners and Supporters,

January 1, 2014

As 2014 arrives the Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council (Y/S RC&DC) enters a new and exciting phase in which we would like to share with our partners. As most of you know, in 2011 congressional funding was terminated and we had to immediately begin our transition process (Phase 1). During this phase the Council successfully executed all grants, projects, and programs that were remaining from this era – a challenging task without project management dollars built into the original proposals. Additionally we have obtained, managed and/or administered over 1.5 million dollars.

Resource Conservation & Development Councils (RC&DC) across the nation, have had to close their doors left and right. Meanwhile the Y/S RC&DC has run approximately 1.5 million dollars' worth of projects on an annual budget of $40,000.

RC&DC, including the Y/S RC&DC, are unique in that they are one of the only organizations that specifically work to improve, sustain and revitalize our communities on a local level. Councils have been working in partnership to create innovative solutions around social, economic and environmental factors since 1962. Councils work as community change-agents to initiate and administer rural development in underserved and underrepresented regions. That said, the role of the Y/S RC&DC is endless – there are infinite opportunities to improve the quality of life in our rural disadvantaged communities of Fresno, Madera, Mariposa and Tulare Counties.

As the Y/S RC&DC Council enters into Phase II of this unique transition process we recognize the need to diversify funding sources and create new revenue streams. Our current strategic planning process will incorporate a variety of checks and balances to ensure that we are able to continue this good work for years to come. That said, we have realized that we need to again initiate our annual dues membership as we have done with partners for many years in the past.

Attached you will find a request for membership dues. There are different amount requests depending on the type of partner organization you are representing. Partners who are able to contribute will be considered "Supporters" and are voting members of the Council. If you are unable to contribute please contact us to discuss further – are priority is maintaining your partnership.

We appreciate your consideration and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your on-going support – we look forward to working with you in the years to come!

Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler
Y/S RC&DC President

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The mission of the Yosemite/Sequoia RC&D is to promote the quality and aesthetic values of our cultural, environmental, and recreational resources by improving the quality of life through diverse sustainable economic development.
TO: YOSEMITE/SEQUOIA RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
PO BOX 415 NORTH FORK CA 93643  
ATTENTION: BRITTANY DYER

ORGANIZATION: County of Mariposa
CONTACT PERSON & TITLE: Supervisor John Carrier

CONTACT INFORMATION:
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ORGANIZATION TYPE: Government

*PLEASE REVIEW DESCRIPTIONS AND SUGGESTED MEMBERSHIP DUE BELOW

AS WE ARE REESTABLISHING MEMBERSHIP DUES WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE EACH OF OUR PARTNER GROUPS TO CONTACT US DIRECTLY IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO PAY THE DUE AMOUNT OUTLINED BELOW. WE WILL WORK WITH YOU ONE ON ONE. ANY SUPPORT YOU CAN PROVIDE IS APPRECIATED.

COUNTY - $1,000
CURRENTLY THERE ARE FOUR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPRESENTED ON THE COUNCIL, ONE FROM EACH OF THE FOUR COUNTIES IN OUR SERVICE AREA. THE COUNCIL WORKS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COUNTY INTERESTS, AS APPROPRIATE, TO ENSURE BOTH ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES ARE ADDRESSED IN THEIR SERVICE AREA. THE SUGGESTED ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUE FOR 2013/2014 IS $1,000. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

COMMUNITY-BASED GROUPS AND NON-PROFITS - $100
THE Y/S RC&D COUNCIL SERVES A NUMBER OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS, MANY OF WHICH ARE NON-PROFITS, OTHERS WHOM DO NOT HAVE THEIR TAX EXEMPTION STATUS, BUT ALL OF WHICH CONTINUE TO DO GREAT ON THE GROUND WORK IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES. WE ASSIST WITH THIS GOOD WORK IN MANY FORMS SUCH AS: WRITING GRANTS, DEVELOPING PROGRAMS, MANAGING PROJECT, CONDUCTING ADMINISTRATION, TAKING ON FISCAL SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES, LEADING TRANSPARENT AND COLLABORATIVE BASED PROCESS, DEVELOPING AND EXECUTING COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS & OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
IF YOU DO NOT FALL UNDER ONE OF THESE CATEGORIES BUT FEEL THAT YOU BENEFIT FROM OUR PARTNERSHIP AND ARE ABLE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO DONATE WHAT YOU CAN. ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX EXEMPT. THE INDIVIDUAL RESIDENCE WITHIN THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE DIRECTLY BENEFIT FROM THE WORK COMPLETED. WHETHER IT’S THE RESTORATION OF A MEADOW, WHICH IS NOT ONLY GOOD FOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES BUT WATER AVAILABILITY, OR LEADING A “THINK LOCAL FIRST” CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE CONSUMER EDUCATION AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Y/S RC&D COUNCIL PROJECT RESULTS EFFECT THE RESIDENCE OF RURAL AND FOOTHILL COMMUNITIES OF MADERA, MARIPOSA, FRESNO AND TULARE COUNTIES. THANK YOU FOR THE CONSIDERATION.
**Highlighted Projects 2013/2014:**

- **Community Scale Biomass Project** — North Fork, CA — Pilot project for like communities in the Sierra
- **Community Housing Improvement Project** — Providing chipping services & collaborative based solutions to at Risk Communities
- **Oak Acorn Center** — Renovation of historical building at Ahwahnee Hills Regional Park — in partnership with Madera County
- **Upper Chiquito Creek Meadow Restoration** — Stabilize and preserve 31 acres of montane meadow & engage and inform tribal youth
- **Fuel Break Maintenance** — Re develop project to maintain fuel break, support local contractors & provide community outreach
- **Madera Integrated Regional Water Management Plan** — Administrative duties and partner outreach
- **Range Land Improvement Projects** — Partner with USFS and permittees to create off-site water development and improve meadow function

**Some Exciting New Projects That Are Up and Coming Are:**

- **Mountain Marijuana Cleanup** — Clean up illegal pot farms on public lands
- **CEQA/NEPA Planning & Education Project** — Partner with the USFS to complete environmental planning required to do on-the-ground restoration in the future while conducting a series of public outreach, including intimate school field trips, to learn about meadow function and importance to our everyday lives

**On-Going Projects Include But Are Not Limited To:**

- **Geotourism** — Partnership with National Geographic and Sierra Business Council to encourage tourism that provides unique experiences for travelers while supporting the local community
- **"Think Local First"** — Consumer education campaign to improve local economies
- **Ag/Nature Tourism** — On the ground support for farmers depending on individual needs
- **"Welcome to the Foothill" Booklet Distribution** — A 40-page document outlining "must knows/"do's" for residence new to foothill communities
- **CARE Video Distribution** — Environmental educational video in Hmong
- **On-going Partner Support and Capacity Building**

**Y/S RC&D Council Services Include But Are Not Limited To:**

- Program Administration
- Fiscal Agenda Services
- Program Management Services
- Grant Writing
- Program Development
- Leading transparent and collaborative based processes
- Developing and executing community education and outreach