DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors

BY: Bob Pickard
PHONE: 966-3222

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign a letter of support for a biomass project.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has previously authorized the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign letters of support for projects or issues that will ultimately the benefit the citizens of Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign the letter with amendments. Do not authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign the letter. Individual Supervisors may sign their own letters of support.

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 of support
Source:
Internal Transfer
Unanticipated Revenue
Transfer Between Funds
Contingency
( ) General  ( ) Other

CLERK'S USE ONLY:
Res. No.: 92-SS2  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
TO: BOB PICKARD, Supervisor District V
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR BIOMASS PROJECT RESOLUTION 05-552

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on DECEMBER 6, 2005

ACTION AND VOTE:

Bob Pickard, Chairman
Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to Sign a Letter of Support for a Biomass Project

BOARD ACTION: Robyn Smith, Coordinator for the Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council, presented information on the request for support of a biomass project. She advised that funding will be requested through a grant from the Forest Service for doing a business plan for a co-generation plant that would be in conjunction with the County’s compost facility. She advised of a future grant opportunity for applying for funds to construct the plant. Discussion was held. Supervisor Bibby suggested that Public Works, Environmental Health and Planning be involved to review space, staffing, and circulation issues, etc. Supervisor Stetson presented suggested changes to the draft letter. (M)Fritz, (S)Stetson, Res. 05-552 was adopted approving the letter of support, with the suggested changes. Further discussion was held. Supervisor Bibby asked for a continuance of the item to allow an opportunity to discuss this with staff, and she asked for information on who would be attending the partnership meetings. Chairman Pickard responded, and he advised that he plans to bring a presentation to the Board in January by a firm from San Diego to show what the technology is capable of doing and the potential. Dana Hertfelder, Public Works Director, provided information relative to the proposal. Ayes: Stetson, Turpin, Fritz, Pickard; Noes: Bibby.

Cc: File
December 6, 2005

To whom it may concern:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors supports the concept in partnering with the Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council, Mariposa County and Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Councils, the National Forest Service, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), and Mariposa and Coarsegold Resource Conservation Districts.

This project will help meet an urgent need in our region by depleting dangerous amounts of woody biomass accumulation that exists on private and local federally managed lands. In addition, this project will be studied as a part of an overall waste disposal system. It is a goal of Mariposa County to develop a waste disposal system that can utilize composted mixed solid waste, woody biomass, and possibly bio-solids and convert them into a useable product.

The waste disposal system that Mariposa County has constructed is the first of its kind in California although it has been successfully utilized in Europe for years. This technology was chosen by the County after years of research and development including feasibility and waste characterization studies. Partnerships were developed with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Park Service, and the California Integrated Waste Management Board. These partnerships were successful in securing over 7 million dollars to construct this state of the art facility.

Mariposa County is committed to supporting the concept, and may do so by:
- matching funds (in kind) through investments in our solid waste composting facility
- providing the assistance and expertise of solid waste management employees and engineers
- facilitating working relationships with partner organizations for the purposes of developing and completing the project
- allocating land in Mariposa County to be used as the site for the proposed project

Mariposa County is excited about this opportunity to work on a project that will benefit not only National Forest lands and private lands in Mariposa and Madera County, but will also serve as a model for other locations in California and other States.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal and please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

BOB PICKARD
Chairman

BP/mhh

bcc: Margie Williams, Clerk of the Board
Mariposa County
Scrap to Security: Forest Biomass
and Municipal Waste Utilization

12/6/05

Purpose
To contract a biomass consultant to create a comprehensive business/site plan, do preliminary engineering work, and produce the RFP for the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract for the construction of an approx. 2 MW cogeneration facility.

Timeline/Deliverables
After a period of advertising and outreach, a request for quotes will be sent out to consultants and contractors. Applications will be received, reviewed, and a contractor will be chosen. The chosen contractor will develop and complete work on the following deliverables:
- Business Plan
- Technology Research
- Preliminary Engineering/Site Specific Construction Footprint
- Study of Fuel Stream

The final deliverable will be a request for proposals for the Engineering, Procurement and Construction Contract for the proposed generator. We estimate this entire process to take one year after funding is awarded.

Partners
- Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council
- Mariposa County Resource Conservation District
- Coarsegold Resource Conservation District
- Mariposa Fire Safe Council
- Eastern Madera Fire Safe Council
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- US Forest Service, Bass Lake Ranger District

Benefits
- Facility will use fuel stream of over 82,000 tons of woody biomass from Eastern Madera and Mariposa Counties.
- An initial rough estimate of approx. 6,000 tons of materials from the Mariposa Solid Waste Composting Facility may be used as well.
- This project will aid in the treatment of 475,150 acres of National Forest lands
- Fuels used by this generator will decrease the risk of fire to 2,503,380 acres of land in the Wildland Urban Interface, including 39,556 acres of private WUI land.
- 2 MW of electricity is enough to provide energy for approximately 2,000 homes.

Thank you for considering this opportunity for Mariposa County to move forward as a model for other communities in not only reducing the waste going into landfills but also reducing fire hazards to communities in a way that benefits the local economy.