RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2014-93

MEETING: March 4, 2014

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rick Benson, County Administrative Officer

RE: Fish & Game Funding for Barn Owl Box Project

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve the Use of Funding in the Fish & Game Budget for a Barn Owl Box Project Sponsored by the Mariposa County Fish & Game Protective Association in the Amount of $13,000. The Project will be done in cooperation with the local 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) groups to build 50 owl boxes and place them in strategic locations on private property throughout the County. Students will then monitor the boxes for study projects on barn owls as well as providing routine maintenance on the boxes. Property owners interested in participating in the project will submit a request and then their property will be inspected to determine if there is a suitable location for an owl box. Agreements for the placement and maintenance of the owl boxes will be with the property owners and the Mariposa County Fish & Game Protective Association.

Please see the attached proposal for additional information on the project.

The County’s Fish & Game budget receives revenue from fines relating to violations of the California Fish & Game Code and any other law relating to the protection and preservation of birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, or amphibians. Section 13103 of the California Fish & Game Code (attached) lists approved expenses and this project meets that criteria.

Currently this is approximately $13,000 available in the Fish & Game budget, which is sufficient for this project, but will deplete the fund for any other expenses until sufficient revenue is accumulated. Annually this budget collects a little over $1,500 on average. If this project is approved, County Administrative staff will process invoices for payments when properly submitted for approved purchases.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
On February 11, 2014, the Board adopted Resolution 14-52 approving a Grant Agreement to finance the “Explore Nature Along Bear Creek Through a Lens and a
Pen” in the amount of $3,335.

On February 11, 2014, the Board adopted Resolution 14-53 approving the local office of California Department of Fish & Wildlife to purchase heavy duty wrench/recovery equipment for $6,737 and to purchase three infrared covert trail cameras for $2,101.

**ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**
Approve the request, but for a reduced number of owl boxes.

Do not approve the request. Funding will need to be identified from another source.

**ATTACHMENTS:**
Barn Owl Box Proposal  (PDF)
Fish & Game Code Section 13100-13104  (PDF)

**CAO RECOMMENDATION**
Requested Action Recommended

\[Signature\]
Rick Benson, County Administrator

**RESULT:**  **ADOPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]**
**MOVER:**  Lee Stetson, District I Supervisor
**SECONDER:**  John Carrier, District V Supervisor
**AYES:**  Lee Stetson, Merlin Jones, Janet Bibby, John Carrier
**EXCUSED:**  Kevin Cann