RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2014-159

MEETING: April 15, 2014

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor

RE: Letter of Support Regarding Naming CA SR 132 as "John Muir Highway"

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve a Letter of Support Regarding Naming California State Route 132 as "John Muir Highway", and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter.

The first step in gaining this designation by the State of California was accomplished in 2010 when the County Board of Supervisors of Mariposa and Tuolumne Counties designated the highway between Coulterville and Smith Station as the “Historic John Muir Route.” This portion of the highway also became part of National Geographic’s Sierra Nevada Map Guide and celebrates Muir’s milestone “ramble” to Yosemite Valley, and his role as one of the most prominent figures in the history of the environmental preservation movement worldwide.

The naming of the road will honor John Muir’s legacy in 2014, the 100th Anniversary of his death, as one of the most renowned citizens of California. A support letter to Assembly Member Frank Bigelow will assist him in attaining California legislation for this historical project.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has approved support letters on issues they believe involve a worthy cause.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not approve the letter. Individual Board members may write their own letters of support, which may not carry the significance of a letter endorsed by the entire Board.

ATTACHMENTS:
Letter of support for naming SR 132 John Muir Highway (DOCX)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended
RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: Lee Stetson, District I Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Jones, Bibby, Cann, Carrier
COUNTY of MARIPOSA
P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222
KEVIN CANN, CHAIR
MERLIN JONES, VICE-CHAIR
LEE STETSON
JANET BIBBY
JOHN CARRIER
DISTRICT IV
DISTRICT II
DISTRICT I
DISTRICT III
DISTRICT V

MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: SUPERVISOR JONES

FROM: RENE' LaROCHE, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Approve a Letter of Support Regarding Naming California State Route 132 as "John Muir Highway", and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter

RES. 14-159

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on April 15, 2014

ACTION AND VOTE:

1. Board of Supervisors RES-2014-159

Approve a Letter of Support Regarding Naming California State Route 132 as "John Muir Highway", and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter

Ken Pulvino gave a PowerPoint presentation on the issue. Supervisor Jones discussed how much he has learned about John Muir's importance to the area.

Chair Cann noted that he checked with the Assessor, and neither Mariposa County nor Tuolumne County anticipates any mailing address issues.

Supervisor Carrier inquired if Mr. Pulvino has solicited support from either Stanislaus or Merced counties. Mr. Pulvino responded that no formal action has been requested yet, and noted individuals with whom he has spoken.

No public input.

Supervisor Jones moved to approve the letter of support. Chair Cann required clarification as to which letter, as Board staff had prepared one letter for the agenda packet while Mr. Pulvino had supplied a different letter which was marked "sample draft" prior to today's presentation. Supervisor Jones responded that he was moving to accept the "sample draft" letter just provided. The Board reviewed the "sample draft" letter. Supervisor Stetson seconded the motion to authorize the "sample draft" letter. Supervisor Bibby required assurance that the "sample draft" letter would be incorporated into the packet for the public. The Clerk of the Board indicated that it would. CAO noted that the signature needs to be from the Chair. The Motion maker and second agreed. Chair Cann called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.
RESULT: ADOPTED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: Lee Stetson, District I Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Jones, Bibby, Cann, Carrier

Cc: File
Mr. Robert Hanna  
JMGC, Advisory Council Member  
413 Yosemite Street  
Roseville, CA 95678

Dear Mr. Hanna,

This letter recognizes the worthiness of the request you will be submitting to the California State Legislative leaders to have State Route 132 named in honor of one of our state's and nation's great leaders, John Muir, your great-great grandfather. Bringing recognition of the tremendous positive impact Muir's writings and citizen activism provided on behalf of preserving our country's natural wonders certainly warrants this act to help insure that the legacy of John Muir continues to be shared globally. The reasons for our support and the invitation of our sister counties, Tuolumne and Stanislaus, to join us in this request are summarized below.

By choosing the SR 132 to be named "John Muir Highway," the state of California will be drawing attention to the almost 150 years of environmental stewardship that John Muir was so instrumental in nurturing. As described in Muir's famous book, My First Summer in Sierra, he passed through our Yosemite region along his 1868 route. It is highly likely that Muir actually shopped in the old Gazzolo Hardware store (built in 1853) that is the site now of the John Muir Geotourism Center. As California showed with the selection of Muir's image on the state quarter, Muir's role on behalf of our country's natural landscape treasures should be commemorated by having the highway that most closely follows his walking path named after him.

There are potentially significant economic benefits as well that should result from this highway corridor being established as an eco-friendly and rural lifestyle theme geotourism venue branded as John Muir Highway. This can be accomplished with a minimum of State expenditures required for signage postings and associated changes required by the new highway name. It is important also to note that this economic opportunity will be shared across the three counties of Mariposa, Tuolumne and Stanislaus counties.

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors has approved this naming recommendation and hopes you are able to move rapidly towards this bipartisan goal with our State's leaders in the California Legislature.

Thank you sincerely for your consideration and help with this matter.

Best regards,

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
April 15, 2014

Mr. Robert Hanna
JMGC, Advisory Council Member
413 Yosemite Street
Rooseville, CA 95678

RE: “John Muir Highway” - State Route 132 - SUPPORT

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Thank you sincerely for your consideration and help with this matter.

Best Regards,

KEVIN CANN  
Chairman

cc: Assembly Member Bigelow