DEPARTMENT: Agricultural Commissioner
BY: Cathi Boze
PHONE: 966-2075

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Resolution Authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign a Letter to the California Dept. of Transportation District 10 Requesting Their Assistance in the Control of Invasive Weeds on State Right-of-Ways

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

Mariposa County has been working on the control of invasive weeds in the county on public County and State right-of-ways, Yosemite National Park, and on private lands through a cost share program using SB 1740 funds. Coordinated and continued control efforts are necessary, particularly in the leading edge areas of the State highways, to prevent further encroachment and movement into the County from infested areas.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
None

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes (x) No  Current FY Cost: __________________________
Budgeted In Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded
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

Annual Recurring Cost: $ __________________________
List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Letter to CalTrans District 10

CLERK’S USE ONLY:
Res. No.: 05-345  Ord. No. ________
Vote – Ayes: ________  Noes: ________
Absent: ________  4/5's vote
( ) 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: __________________________
MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: CATHI BOZE, Agricultural Commissioner
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT: LETTER TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT 10, REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN THE CONTROL OF INVASIVE WEEDS

Resolution No. 05-345

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on July 19, 2005

ACTION AND VOTE:

Approval of Consent Agenda (See End of Minutes)

BOARD ACTION: Supervisor Pickard pulled items 13 and 16. Supervisor Turpin pulled items 2 and 13. (M)Bibby, (S)Turpin, the balance of the items was approved/Ayes: Turpin, Bibby, Fritz, Pickard; Excused: Stetson.

Consent Agenda item 13 – Supervisor Pickard initiated discussion relative to the spread of the seeds from the invasive weeds. Cathi Boze, Agricultural Commissioner, noted that seeds spread from the right-of-ways along roads. Supervisor Turpin noted the need to work with CalTrans on this issue. Supervisor Bibby advised that during her meeting with Dinah Bortner of CalTrans, this issue was discussed and she will review their existing spraying activities in the County. (M)Bibby, (S)Fritz, item 13 was approved with direction to add Senator Poohigian and Assemblyman Cogdill to the distribution of the letter/Ayes: Turpin, Bibby, Fritz, Pickard; Excused: Stetson.

cc: File
Kome Ajise, Director  
California Department of Transportation  
CalTrans District 10  
P.O. Box 2048  
Stockton, California 95201-2048  

19 July 2005  

Dear Mr. Ajise:  

I am writing on behalf of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors to request the assistance of the California Department of Transportation in our local weed control efforts in Mariposa County, specifically along the State right-of-ways.  

The spread of invasive and noxious weeds has been likened to an explosion in slow motion. Invasive weeds are a major economic threat to ranching, farming, forestry, and water supplies as well as to the environmental health of our California landscape. In Mariposa County, potentially destructive weeds such as yellow starthistle, tocalote, Italian thistle, and Klamath weed are causing serious damage. Mariposa County has been working for several years to control these weeds through a variety of projects -- on both private lands through cost share programs and on State and County right-of-ways. Along with on-the-ground control projects, we have also funded the mapping and inventory of the invasive weeds in the County and public outreach and education using SB 1740 funds.  

Although the damage from invasive weeds is immense, Mariposa County has limited resources to stop and roll back the siege on its own. Coordinated and continued control efforts are necessary to prevent these weeds from further encroachment and movement into adjacent noxious weed-free areas, particularly in the leading edge areas. Public monies and effort put towards prevention of infestation and spread are the wisest and best use of these limited resources.  

The California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) manages approximately 230,000 acres in California, primarily adjacent to state and federal highways. Approximately 12,000 acres are estimated to be infested with noxious weeds. Those infested acres are also adjacent to private and public lands. The rancher and farmer have often been the first to spot trouble and have carried out and borne the costs of integrated weed
management control on their property in conjunction with the County efforts on public right-of-ways and lands. The effects of noxious and invasive weeds can be so great as to render agricultural production impossible.

We are asking that Cal Trans do its part to limit these infestations, particularly on the leading edge areas of the State highway systems into Mariposa County – Hwys 140, 49 and 132. Several of these highways are infested with Yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) and other invasive weeds and have the potential to re-infest areas of Mariposa County (on both private and public lands) already under control.

Use of herbicides such as Transline® and other integrated weed management tools on the State highway right-of-ways would prevent further spread and re-infestation of the invasive weeds by providing both pre- and post-emergence control, substantially reducing the starthistle and other invasive weed populations and thus depleting much of the seed bank. Control efforts are critical to prevent these noxious weeds from further encroachment onto private and public lands.

Thank you for your consideration of our request that you consider a coordinated approach to the management of noxious weeds and help Mariposa County limit the re-infestations, particularly in leading edge areas as well as State right-of-ways.

Sincerely,

Bob Pickard  
Chairman, Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Barbara Pollock, District Landscape Specialist, Vegetation Control Program