DEPARTMENT: Administration

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Presentation by Laura Whitehouse of National Parks Conservation Association and adoption of Resolution entitled “Mariposa County Board of Supervisors Resolution in Support of Americans for National Parks”.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

Ms. Laura Whitehouse would like to make a presentation to the Board of Supervisors explaining the work being done by the National Parks Conservation Association. She is also requesting adoption of a resolution supporting the Association’s efforts to get additional funding for the national parks.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Don’t adopt resolution.

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes (X) No
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

List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Resolution

CLERK’S USE ONLY:
Res. No. 371 Ord. No. ______
Vote – Ayes: ______ Noes: ______
( ) 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:
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

Revised Dec. 2002
MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 05-37

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AMERICANS FOR NATIONAL PARKS

A Resolution expressing the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors support for the Americans for National Parks coalition and its guiding principles of: securing appropriations to ensure that the National Park Service can meet its mission and make up for previous funding deficiencies in a way that satisfies diverse park needs including science, resource protection, and education.

WHEREAS, the 388 units of America’s National Park system contain 83 million acres of culturally, historically, and naturally significant lands that are home to 168 threatened and endangered species, an 80 million item museum collection, and 20,000 buildings of historic value; and

WHEREAS, National Parks generate substantial economic benefit for surrounding communities through local employment, tax revenues, visitor spending on meals and lodging, business expenditures to service visitors, and NPS expenditures for park employee salaries, supplies, services, construction projects, etc.; and

WHEREAS, California’s 23 national parks contribute more than $1.18 billion to the state economy and local communities and support 30,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, a series of business plan analyses conducted by business and policy experts in conjunction with the National Park Service indicate that the Park Service’s annual operations budget falls at least $600 million, approximately 30-percent short of what is needed; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has identified a $4.9 billion backlog of overdue maintenance, infrastructure repair and knowledge-related projects that is the direct result of decades of annual shortfalls in the Parks’ operating budget; and

WHEREAS, the Park Service has only one interpreter per 100,000 park visitors; visitor centers have reduced operating hours or have been closed altogether for months at a time; public education programs have been reduced or eliminated; scientific monitoring of flora and fauna has lapsed; historic buildings are allowed to deteriorate; priceless museum collections are piled up in corners or boxed up and stored in damp basements; and wildlife and Native American artifacts are being poached; and

WHEREAS, the air quality in our Sierra parks is of great concern and must be addressed; and

WHEREAS, Yosemite National Park’s 3.4 million annual visitors contribute more than $300 million to local economies, yet interpretive rangers on staff is at the lowest in a decade; campfire programs no longer exist; many positions have been eliminated; and the Park struggles to maintain restrooms, trails, and campgrounds and is facing an annual shortfall of $17 million; and
WHEREAS, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks’ 1.2 million annual visitors contribute more than $98 million to local economies, yet because of a $14 million shortfall, additional funding is needed to deter illegal marijuana cultivation; rent a new ambulance; provide educational programs for Valley children and educators; and reopen 4 closed backcountry ranger stations; and

WHEREAS, Americans for National Parks is a coalition of nonprofit organizations, businesses, trade associations, government agencies, and other nonpartisan supporters of the national parks committed to protecting America’s most inspiring and historic places; and

WHEREAS, Americans for National Parks is working to encourage Congress and the administration to address the funding needs of the National Park System this year and every year by educating and mobilizing key decision makers, and building public demand for protecting park resources through media relations, advertising, and grassroots education; and

WHEREAS, we believe that the region’s public lands could become a “significant tourist draw” for our community and that such additional visitors would add to our economic base in the form of tourism dollars; and

WHEREAS, we have not seen the budget of Yosemite or Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks keep up with inflation, maintenance needs, nor the visitor counts; and

WHEREAS, the National Parks should remain accessible to all and for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the guiding principles of Americans for National Parks consist of:

1. Congressional Responsibility: The coalition supports congressional appropriations sufficient to ensure that the National Park Service meets its mission “to conserve the scenery and natural and historic objects and the wildlife” of the 388 national park units and “to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

2. Addressing Park Deficits: The coalition believes that congress must not only meet annual funding needs but must also make up for previous funding deficiencies and cumulative shortages by securing funds to educate visitors and to protect wildlife, cultural and natural resources, historic structures, and other resources.

3. Business Management: The coalition supports the rigorous application of sound business and management principles in each park unit as developed jointly by the National Parks Conservation Association and the National Park Service with input from business and policy experts and local communities.

4. Diversity of Needs: The coalition supports an equitable distribution of funding to satisfy diverse park needs including science, resource protection, and education in addition to park infrastructure repair and enhancement.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors supports the Americans for National Parks Coalition, as defined by the guiding principles listed above, and supports legislative efforts to maintain and preserve America’s 388 national park units.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of February 2005 by the Board of Supervisors of Mariposa County by the following vote:

AYES: STETSON, TURPIN, BIBBY, FRITZ, PICKARD
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAINED: NONE

BOB PICKARD, Chairman

ATTEST: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

THOMAS P. GUARINO, County Counsel
COUNTY of MARIPOSA
P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222

BOB PICKARD, CHAIR
LYLE TURPIN
JANET BIBBY
DIANNE FRITZ

DISTRICT V
DISTRICT I
DISTRICT II
DISTRICT III
DISTRICT IV

MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: RICH INMAN, County Administrative Officer
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AMERICANS FOR NATIONAL PARKS

Resolution No. 05-37

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on February 8, 2005

ACTION AND VOTE:

Rich Inman, County Administrative Officer;
Presentation by Laura Whitehouse of National Parks Conservation Association and Adopt a Resolution
Entitled, “Mariposa County Board of Supervisors Resolution in Support of Americans for National Parks”

BOARD ACTION: Laura Whitehouse gave a presentation of her organization and the projects that they are
working on; and she advised of the request for the Board to adopt a resolution in support of efforts to increase
funding for the National Parks. She provided information on the status of the Federal budget for the National
Parks. Discussion was held relative to the request; including issues relative to the legislation to support the
schools in Yosemite National Park, and access and camping in the Park; and finances for the organization,
including the Centennial Act. Discussion was held relative to changes that occur as a result of Park
improvements and addressing accommodation for motor homes, and access and visitor accommodations.
Supervisor Bibby requested that the resolution include wording that the National Parks should be accessible to
all and for future generations; and that reference to the Centennial Act be deleted. (M)Bibby, (S)Stetson, Res.
05-37 was adopted supporting the Americans for National Parks, with changes as suggested. Chairman
Pickard called for input from the public prior to calling for the vote.

Mary Darlene Theodore asked that the horse community not be forgotten; and she noted that
there needs to be access for the trailers to bring the horses into the Parks.

Further discussion was held, and the Board concurred that the “accessible to all” language covers
equestrian use. Ayes: Unanimous.

cc: File