RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Authorize the Chairman to sign a letter requesting that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) reduce their fees to allow Golden State Cellular to establish a cellular phone site on Penon Blanco. CDF owns and manages a radio vault located on Penon Blanco and Golden State Cellular would like to establish a cellular site on this location. The costs to establish a cellular site are significantly greater than the revenue that will be generated, and Golden State Cellular will not be able to afford a cellular site in this location unless CDF reduces the fees they charge. Currently this part of the County does not have cellular phone service and a cellular site will greatly enhance public safety.

The Merced Irrigation District, California Highway Patrol, County Fire, our local CDF Ranger Unit, Mercy Ambulance, and our Sheriff's Department are also writing letters of support regarding this matter.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has routinely authorized the Chairman to sign letters requesting specific actions that will benefit the citizens and visitors of Mariposa County.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not authorize the Chairman to sign the letter. Without a letter of support requesting that CDF reduce their fees for establishing a cellular site on Penon Blanco, it is very likely that Golden State Cellular will be unable to afford to establish a cellular site in this location. This part of the County will continue to have no cellular service, which could hamper public safety.
June 17, 2002

Luke Wilson
Real Property Manager, Technical Services
California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection
Post Office Box 944246
Sacramento, California 94244-2460

Dear Luke:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors requests that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection reduce the fees charged to place a cellular phone site on Penon Blanco, located in Mariposa County. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection owns and manages a radio vault located on Penon Blanco, and Golden State Cellular would like to place a cellular phone site in this location. Unfortunately, the costs to establish a cellular site are significantly greater than the revenue that will be generated.

Currently there is no cellular phone service in this rural area of the County and a cellular phone site will greatly enhance public safety. Of particular concern in this part of the County are the Lake McClure and the Bagby Recreation facilities, as people who are boating, camping, and hiking at these facilities do not have the ability to contact emergency personnel by cellular phone during possible life-threatening incidents.

Thank you for considering a reduction in fees that will allow Golden State to establish a cellular phone site on Penon Blanco.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
ROBERT C. STEWART
Chairman

RCS/mbh

bcc: Margie Williams, Clerk of the Board