MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO:        RESOLUTION FILE
FROM:      MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT:   Off Agenda Items from September 17, 2002
            Resolution No. 02-352, 02-353, 02-354, -02-355, and 02-356

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,

ADOPTED THIS Order on September 17, 2002

ACTION AND VOTE:

Off agenda items: Supervisor Pickard advised of request for off-agenda action to approve letters supporting AB 1282/health care services, and AB2630/airport project funding. Supervisor Stewart advised of request for off-agenda action to approve letters relative to S.2640/YARTS, advising that he had scheduled this matter for September 24th; however, he just found out that a hearing was scheduled for Congress this week on this matter. Supervisor Balmain advised of a request for off-agenda action to approve a letter opposing SB1828/Native American tribe’s veto power over the use of non-tribal lands. (M)Pickard, (S)Balmain, the Board waived rules requiring 72 hours agenda noticing to consider these requests, finding action is a matter of timeliness as the legislation is pending consideration of the Governor and Congress. Discussion was held relative to the request to waive the rules. Supervisor Reilly expressed concern with taking action to waive the rules to consider these matters as the legislation has been in process since January, and she feels it should be noticed to the public. Ayes: Balmain, Stewart, Parker, Pickard; Abstained: Reilly.

- Supervisor Pickard initiated discussion relative to AB1282 (Cardoza), which would require the Department of Managed Health Care to adopt regulations that establish an extended geographic accessibility standard for access of health care providers served by a health care service plan in counties with a population of less than 500,000, and would require a health service plan to hold a public meeting if it intends to withdraw coverage from that county. Trudy Williams, speaking as a citizen, urged the Board to support this legislation as the health insurance situation affects the citizens, and has personally affected her family’s coverage. (M)Pickard, (S)Balmain, Res. 02-352 was adopted supporting AB1282, with direction for a letter to be sent to the Governor/Ayes: Unanimous.

- Supervisor Pickard initiated discussion relative to AB2630 (Cogdill), which may be able to assist the County in further developing our rural airport security projects through the Federal Aviation Administration
Grant Funds. (M)Pickard, (S)Balmain, Res. 02-353 was adopted supporting AB2630, with direction for a letter to be sent to the Governor/AYES: Unanimous.

- Supervisor Stewart initiated discussion relative to S.2640 (Feinstein), which would allow Yosemite National Park the same funding considerations for transportation systems as those allowed Zion National Park. Supervisor Reilly noted that this legislation is also for the school funding which the Board previously took action on. (M)Reilly, (S)Pickard, Res. 02-354 was adopted supporting S.2640, with direction for letters to be sent to Senator Murkowski and Senator Bingaman/AYES: Reilly, Balmain, Stewart, Pickard; ABSTAINED: Parker.

- Supervisor Balmain initiated discussion relative to SB1828 (Burton), which would provide Native American tribes veto power over the use of non-tribal lands. (M)Parker, (S)Balmain, Res. 02-355 was adopted opposing SB1828, with direction for a letter to be sent to the Governor requesting his veto of this bill/AYES: Balmain, Stewart, Parker, Pickard; ABSTAINED: Reilly.

- Supervisor Balmain advised of request for another off-agenda item to approve a letter supporting AB1776, which would give local governments in specified small counties the ability to fill vacancies on their Board of Supervisors by appointment or special election 180 days after the date the vacancy occurred if the Governor has not made an appointment. (M)Balmain, (S)Pickard, Board waived rules requiring 72 hours agenda noticing to consider this matter finding action is a matter of timeliness as this legislation is pending the Governor's consideration/AYES: Balmain, Stewart, Parker, Pickard; NOES: Reilly. Discussion was held relative to the request to waive the rules. Supervisor Reilly expressed concern with waiving the rules to consider this matter. Motion by Balmain to support AB1776, was held for the following input. Trudy Williams, speaking as a constituent, stated she feels that as a voter and as a taxpayer of the County, the best way is to hold an election. However, she questioned how expensive that would be. She further stated that speaking as a private citizen, she does not support the legislation. (M)Balmain, (S)Pickard, Res. 02-356 was adopted supporting AB1776, with direction for a letter to be sent to the Governor. Supervisor Reilly expressed concern that the legislation goes beyond providing for an opportunity for a special election.

AYES: Balmain, Stewart, Parker, Pickard; NOES: Reilly.

cc: File
RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: (Policy Item: Yes____ No_X)

Approve letters to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources supporting S. 2640 (introduced by Senator Feinstein and supported by Congressman Radanovich) that would allow Yosemite National Park to fund YARTS transportation services.

See the attached memorandum from Merced County Association of Governments and the draft letters to Senator Bingaman and Senator Murkowski.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
None on this specific request.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
1) Approve
2) Provide alternative direction
Bob Stewart

From: "Jesse Brown" <jbrown@mcag.cog.ca.us>
To: "Joann Ronci (E-mail)" <realestate@qnet.com>; "Kathleen Crookham (E-mail)"
    <kcrookham@co.merced.ca.us>; "Robert Stewart (E-mail)" <stewsup@yosemite.net>; "Robert
    Stewart (E-mail 2)" <bstew@sierratel.com>
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2002 3:13 PM
Attach: S 2640 Murkowski.doc; S 2640 Bingaman.doc
Subject: Ltrs of support for S 2640

Senator Feinstein has introduced legislation in the Senate that would allow Yosemite National
Park to fund YARTS transportation services. The legislation is also supported by Congressman
Radanovich. Attached are two example letters to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources that have been assigned the bill.

I have spoken with Congressman Radanovich's staff, Damon Nelson who recommends this action.

Please review the letters, revise as you like and mail to the respective Senators. I will also request
letters be sent from YARTS supporters.

Jesse

Jesse Brown
Executive Director
Merced County Association of Governments

(209) 723-3153
(209) 723-0322 FAX
jbrown@mcag.cog.ca.us

09/09/2002
September 6, 2002

The Honorable Senator Jeff Bingaman
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Room SD-364
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bingaman:

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) is an innovative partnership of local county governments, the California Department of Transportation, and the National Park Service who have collaborated to provide transit service to Yosemite National Park and environs.

Our mission is to provide transit as an option for visitors and employees. Our service is now in its third season and has found and enjoyed widespread support. YARTS service improves visitor and employee access to the park, but reduces the number of cars, vans, and RVs. In this regard, YARTS is supporting Yosemite’s planning objectives, relieves traffic congestion, and reduces automobile emissions. YARTS is good for Yosemite National Park and a model for local-federal partnership for our park system.

S.2640, introduced by Senator Feinstein and assigned to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, would allow Yosemite National Park the same funding considerations for transportation systems as those allowed Zion National Park. We support S.2640 and wholeheartedly urge your support and passage during the 107th Congress.

Please call upon me if additional information is desired.

Robert C. Stewart, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Congressman George Radanovich
David Mihalic, Superintendent Yosemite National Park
Jim Petropulos, Public Works Director
Local Transportation Commission
September 18, 2002

The Honorable Senator Frank Murkowski
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Room SD-364
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) is an innovative partnership of local county governments, the California Department of Transportation, and the National Park Service who have collaborated to provide transit service to Yosemite National Park and environs.

Our mission is to provide transit as an option for visitors and employees. Our service is now in its third season and has found and enjoyed widespread support. YARTS service improves visitor and employee access to the park, but reduces the number of cars, vans, and RVs. In this regard, YARTS is supporting Yosemite's planning objectives, relieves traffic congestion, and reduces automobile emissions. YARTS is good for Yosemite National Park and a model for local-federal partnership for our park system.

S.2640, introduced by Senator Feinstein and assigned to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, would allow Yosemite National Park the same funding considerations for transportation systems as those allowed Zion National Park. We support S.2640 and wholeheartedly urge your support and passage during the 107th Congress.

Please call upon me if additional information is desired.

Robert C. Stewart, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Congressman George Radanovich
David Mihalic, Superintendent Yosemite National Park
Jim Petropulos, Public Works Director
Local Transportation Commission