MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: SUPERVISOR STEWART
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Closing of Regional Ag Education Offices
Resolution No. 02-363

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,

ADOPTED THIS Order on October 1, 2002

ACTION AND VOTE:
Supervisor Stewart;
Discussion and Direction to Staff Regarding the Closing of the Regional Ag Education Offices

BOARD ACTION: Wayne Forsythe, High School Agriculture Instructor, advised of Delaine Eastin’s, Superintendent of Public Instruction, decision to close the regional ag education offices.

Santiago Palacio, FFA member, stated he is a senior at the High School and this is his first year in the ag program. He noted that he has a strong academic schedule and he got involved in the welding program. He stated he is learning a lot about the values of the FFA program, and he realizes that this keeps a lot of students that have trouble with the academic curriculum in school. He urged the Board’s support of keeping the regional offices open.

Marcus Hollan, FFA Chapter Reporter and Sectional Vice-President, stated he was a 4-H member and has been an FFA member for four years. He referred to the experiences and opportunities this membership has afforded him, including leadership skills. He stated he personally knows the Regional Coordinator and she dedicates her life to the FFA program and the students. He also advised that he is participating in the prepared public speaking contest again this year; and that he serves as the Student Body President at the High School because of his experiences with this program. He urged the Board to consider the impact the closure of the Regional Offices will have on the 55,000 FFA members in the State.

Wayne Forsythe noted that he feels the FFA program is an investment in the future and he requested the Board’s support.

Discussion was held concerning the request, and Board members requested that the draft letter opposing the closure of the Regional Offices be worded stronger. (M)Pickard, (S)Parker, Res. 02-363 was adopted approving a letter to the Superintendent of Public Instruction strongly opposing the closure of the Regional Ag Education Offices, with direction for distribution of the letter/Ayes: Unanimous.

cc: File
October 1, 2002

Delaine Eastin
Superintendent of Public Instruction
P. O. Box 944272
Sacramento, CA 94244-2720

Subject: Regional Agricultural Education Office Elimination/Reassignment of State Staff

Dear Ms. Eastin:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors has received information relative to your decision to close the Regional Agricultural Education offices and to relocate staff to Sacramento. This is to advise you that your decision raises a great deal of concern. The Board, on this date, took action by Mariposa County Resolution No. 02-363 to strongly oppose the closure of the regional offices.

The Board is well aware of the benefits of the Agricultural Education program to our youth, and of the strong community support, and find it to be a very important program for rural counties. The regional structure provides valuable local staff support with the curriculum and leadership activities for the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Program. Our youth have found these regional FFA activities to be great learning experiences. These programs allow an opportunity for our students to obtain technical skills, as well as leadership abilities, that benefit our communities and our society.

Further, it is our understanding that federal (Carl D. Perkins) versus state monies are used to maintain these offices. It is important that the funds continue to be used for their intended purpose so as not to jeopardize the future of this funding source.
Again, the Board requests that you reconsider the closure of the Regional Agricultural Education offices as it finds this decision totally unacceptable.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

ROBERT C. STEWART
Chairman

RCS:mw

cc: Governor Gray Davis
    Congressman Radanovich
    Assemblyman Dave Cogdill
    Senator Chuck Poochigian
    Mariposa County School Board
    Kerry Mazzoni, Secretary of Education
    Jim Aschwanden, California Agricultural Teachers Association
    Regional Council of Rural Counties
    California State Association of Counties
    Dale Wagerman, Wagerman and Associates
    California State Farm Bureau
    Mariposa County Farm Bureau