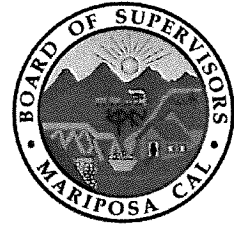




MARIPOSA COUNTY

Cooperative Extension • (209)966-2417



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2015-252

MEETING: June 2, 2015

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Fadzayi Mashiri, Farm Advisor

RE: Approve Addition of Extra Help Master Gardener Coordinator Position

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve the Addition of an Extra-Help Specialized Classification of Master Gardener Coordinator Position to the Cooperative Extension Budget Effective July 1, 2015 and Set the Hourly Rate at \$19.47.

The Master Gardener Coordinator (MGC) oversees Master Gardener volunteers who contribute over 3,000 hours a year to the citizens of Mariposa County. The Master Gardener Program provides public workshops that encompass drought and water conservation, fire prevention and use of native drought-tolerant plants. The MGC provides leadership, support and consultation to over 17 volunteer committees that manage various program activities related to horticulture. The MGC acts at the primary contact and liaison with the Statewide Master Gardener Program, University of California (UC) advisors, CalFire and many County entities including the Fire Safe Council, Resource Conservation District, Chamber of Commerce, Agri-Nature Tours and local 4-H clubs.

The incumbent in this position was formerly a county Extra-Help position in the specialized classification of Master Gardener Coordinator that received offsetting funding through the use of Title III funds (Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS)). The Department was successful in being awarded a 2-year UC Endowment Grant that increased the hours and fully funded this position for fiscal years 2013-14 and 2014-15. With the grant now ending, in order for the valuable work of this position to continue into the next fiscal year, the Department is requesting that this position be a county Extra-Help position.

The incumbent currently in the MGC position has hosted the October 2014 UC Master Gardener Statewide Conference (over 625 attendees from 41 counties) which took place at the Tenaya Lodge, oversees all fund raising activities (approximately \$13,000 this fiscal year) to pay for program activities and contributed to several Statewide drought information publications. The MGC has strong knowledge of the local plants and animals, including oaks, and helps to identify plants, insects and pests that are brought into the office by the community.

The UCCE would prefer a Permanent Part-Time position, but in working the County Administration has determined that an Extra-Help position at this time will be able to

continue with the program, though not to the desired extent. During the course of the fiscal year, the Department may pursue increasing this position to Permanent Part-Time and will be working with the Human Resources/Risk Management Department and with County Administration. County Administration has also confirmed that there will be insufficient Title III funds to offset the cost of this Extra-Help position which is anticipated to cost approximately \$17,000.

It should be noted that this specialized Extra-Help classification already exists and was previously approved by the Board of Supervisors with Resolution 10-26.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board approved the use of Title III funding (\$19,000) for the Master Gardener Extra-Help position on July 24, 2012 (Res. No. 12-392) for the fiscal year 2012-2013.

A UC Endowment grant funded the position for fiscal years 2013-14 and 2014-15 with an end date of June 30, 2015.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

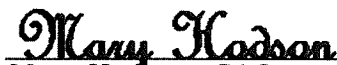
Do not provide General Fund dollars for the position and direct staff to identify another funding source. Should the position not be approved the UCCE would not be able to provide Master Gardener services to the citizens of Mariposa County.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The Extra Help line the Cooperative Extentsion Budget will be funded during the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget cycle. The estimated cost to the General Fund is \$16,987.

CAO RECOMMENDATION

Requested Action Recommended


Mary Hodson, CAO 5/26/2015

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor

SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Carrier