



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors • 209-966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2015-289

MEETING: June 16, 2015

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

RE: Update on Mariposa Biomass Project and Approve Letter of Support for Grant Application

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Receive an Update on Mariposa Biomass Project, Approve Letter of Support for Grant Application, and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter.

The Mariposa Biomass Project is a Public Benefit Corporation, incorporated in California as a 501(c)(3). The Mariposa Biomass Project has secured funding from the U.S. Forest Service, through the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC), for a Fuel Availability Study. The MCFSC signed a consulting agreement for that Study last week and the results should be received by early September.

Concurrent with work on that Study, the Mariposa Biomass Project is seeking funding for a feasibility study to explore the economics of constructing such a facility in Mariposa. The Watershed Education and Training Center has agreed to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to secure funding for a feasibility study on the Biomass Project as well as two similar projects in California. Mariposa County will bear no responsibility for compliance with the grant since the applicant will be the Watershed Education and Training Center.

The Mariposa Biomass Project will update the Board of Supervisors on the progress made thus far as well as outline short term goals. The Mariposa Biomass Project is requesting that the Board of Supervisors approve a letter of support for the grant application and authorize the Board Chair to sign it.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has approved letters of support in the past on projects that will ultimately benefit the citizens of Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve a letter of support for the grant application. Individual Board


members may write their own letters of support, which may not carry the weight of a support letter endorsed by the entire Board.

ATTACHMENTS:

Support ltr - Mariposa County.draft (DOCX)

CAO RECOMMENDATION

Requested Action Recommended



Mary Hodson, CAO 6/10/2015

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Carrier

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 ... ROSEMARIE SMALLCOMBE
District 2 MERLIN JONES
District 3 MARSHALL LONG
District 4 KEVIN CANN
District 5 JOHN CARRIER



MARY HODSON
County Administrative Officer

RENE LAROCHE
Clerk of the Board

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June 16, 2015

USDA Rural Development
Oroville Office
150-D Chuck Yeager Way
Oroville, CA

To Whom It May Concern:

The Board of Supervisors of Mariposa County supports the Watershed Research and Training Center's application for a Rural Business Development Grant. This grant will provide assistance to a biomass industrial facility which is under consideration in Mariposa. The Mariposa Biomass Project, incorporated in California as a public benefit corporation and a 501(c)(3), has secured funding for a fuel availability analysis for the Project, and is very excited about the possibility of obtaining further assistance with pre-development plans and analyses.

This project will play a critical role, not only in the economy of the County but also in public safety and environmental restoration. Like other surrounding counties, the forests in Mariposa County are overstocked with fuel. This has led to numerous destructive forest fires, including the Rim Fire in 2013 which was declared a national disaster and was the largest wildfire on record in the Sierra Nevada region. We see the redevelopment of forest product manufacturing and forest bioenergy as a way of addressing the issue of forest health, as well as the issues of air quality, Green House Gas (GHG) reductions, and climate change mitigation.

We ask that you provide funding for this very worthy project.

Sincerely,

Merlin Jones
Chair, Mariposa County Board of Supervisors