TO: ERIC TOLL, Planning Director
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT: GENERAL PLAN UPDATE
Resolution 00-363

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,
ADOPTED THIS Order on October 24, 2000

ACTION AND VOTE:

- Supervisor Pickard advised of an off-agenda request to approve a letter to the Governor’s Office for funding assistance for the General Plan Update. (M)Pickard, (S)Reilly, Board waived rules requiring 72 hours agenda noticing finding this matter was not known about at the time the agenda was prepared and it is a matter of timeliness. Ayes: Reilly, Balmain, Stewart, Pickard; Excused: Parker. Following discussion, (M)Pickard, (S)Reilly, Res. 00-363 adopted approving the letter to be sent to the Governor’s Office requesting that the Office of Planning and Research include in its budget proposal for the Governor’s budget a special fund for grants designated to assist local jurisdictions in the development and update of their General Plans. Ayes: Reilly, Balmain, Stewart, Pickard; Excused: Parker.

cc: File
October 24, 2000

Mr. Steven Nissen, Acting Director
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
1400 10th Street, #156
Sacramento, California 95812-3044

Dear Mr. Nissen:

In accordance with California law, Mariposa County has begun an update of its General Plan and has committed $200,000 of county general funds towards this project. The Plan will require extensive modification due to the significant impact of the University of California Merced campus. The additional cost is approximately $150,000. The Board of Supervisors of Mariposa County seeks your consideration of a proposal and request related to the County's General Plan.

Our request is that the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) include in its budget proposal for the Governor's Budget a special fund for grants designated to assist local jurisdictions in the development and update of their General Plans. Grants from this fund could be based on any number of factors, including county size, needs assessments, anticipated growth, and local match requirements.

Mariposa County will be facing significant growth issues that are in part a result of State and Federal actions. As stated above, the U.C. Merced campus will have definite impact simply because of its proximity and the availability of unincorporated land in our county. The National Park Service is also considering relocating some of its employee housing and administrative facilities to areas outside of the Park boundaries. This is a foreshadowing of the growth-inducing impacts that will require General Plan amendments to address multiple issues. Some of these issues include land use, transportation and water needs, environmental impacts, septic viability, zoning issues, and economic development.

Mariposa County recognizes the vital need to plan for "smart growth" versus sprawl. We believe it makes sense for the state to assist local jurisdictions that are committed to intelligent planning, but lack the resources to prepare for the impacts of growth. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our request, and our Executive Secretary will be contacting your office to make an appointment with you or your appropriate staff. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Doug Balmain
Vice Chairman

DB/TR/mbh

cc: Wagerman & Associates, Incorporated

bcc: Dennis Cardoza, Assembly Member
Eric Toll, Planning Director
Margie Williams, Clerk of the Board