

MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors · 209-966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2015-522

MEETING: November 3, 2015
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
RE: Resource Conservation District Grant

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve the Use of Tobacco Settlement Funding to Offset the Registration Costs of the Annual California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) for the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District in the Amount of \$2,125.

The Mariposa County Resource Conservation District is a Special District of the State of California, pursuant to Division 9, California Public Resources Code. The California Department of Conservation's Division of Land Resource Protection supports the Mariposa County RCD by providing financial assistance through grant programs, but funding for these grants have been dwindling and they are beginning to struggle financially with keeping their existing programs and staff in place.

The Mariposa County RCD provides valuable programs and assistance in protecting and preserving our natural resources, and has been instrumental in securing a number of grants to further these endeavors. Additionally, the Mariposa County RCD has been very involved and is helping to coordinate the activities of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and the Regional Water Advisory Council (RWAC).

The annual California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Conference will be held at Tenaya Lodge on November 18-21, 2015. Unfortunately, the Mariposa County RCD does not have sufficient money within its current budget to be able to send its members to this valuable educational experience. The Mariposa County RCD is requesting grant funding from the County in order to send three (3) of its Directors and two (2) staff members to the conference. The conference registration is \$365/attendee and there is a \$60/attendee Forestry Committee Tour on the Saturday after the conference.

Attached is the funding request from the Mariposa County RCD and registration information on the CARCD annual conference.

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There is sufficient funding in the Tobacco Settlement budget for this funding request. Tobacco Settlement money is discretionary and can be used for expenditures approved by the Board of Supervisors. Most recently this funding has been used for the Mariposa Visitors' Center sign, Coulterville Visitors' Center sign; North County History Center sign, Mariposa County RCD, as the County's contribution to the County Service Area (CSA) #3, and to offset the construction costs of the four new fire stations -- Don Pedro, Midpines, Fish Camp, and Bridgeport.

If the Board approves this funding request, then a Grant Agreement will be entered into between Mariposa County RCD and the County. Because of the dollar amount, this Grant Agreement can be approved by the County Administrative Officer after review as to form by County Counsel.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

On February 10, 2015, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 15-73 approving a \$2,000 contribution from the Tobacco Settlement fund to offset administrative costs associated with the Mariposa County RCD managing and coordinating the IRWMP meetings and program.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve the grant agreement. The Mariposa County RCD will need to identify additional funding from another source and/or scale back on their programs or staff in order to attend the CARCD conference.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The Tobacco Settlement fund has an available balance of \$100,000 that has not been committed for any Board approved expenditure.

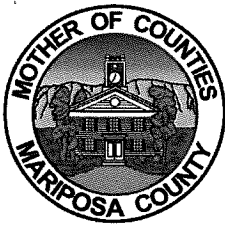
ATTACHMENTS:

RCD and CARCD Information 2015 (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION

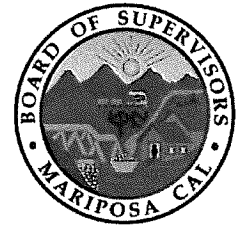
Requested Action Recommended


Mary Hodson, CAO 10/29/2015



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors • 209-966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2015-522

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
SECONDER: John Carrier, District V Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Carrier

October 22, 2015

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
5100 Bullion St.
P. O. Box 784
Mariposa, CA 95338

Dear Members of the Board:

The Mariposa County Resource Conservation District is honored to be hosting the 70th annual conference of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts at the Tenaya Lodge in Fish Camp November 18 -21, 2015. This convocation typically draws upward of 300 attendees representing most of the state's 100 resource conservation districts, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, other government agencies and NGOs, and invited dignitaries and guest speakers. We're pleased that registration for this year's event already exceeds this number and excited by the prospect that accompanying family members and other guests of attendees may bring the total number of guests to 400-500.

We are writing this letter to invite the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors to support this conference with a financial commitment of \$3,000 to help defray some of the event's substantial costs to the host district. An authorization of funding support in this amount by the Board would acknowledge the many important contributions the MCRCD has made historically and continues to make to this county's land and natural resource stewardship, to our collective well-being and to our economy.

Established in 1954 and governed by a volunteer board of directors attuned to local resource conservation issues, needs and priorities, the MCRCD, like its 3,000 counterparts across the nation, has consistently demonstrated an ability to address multiple resource and community concerns and carry out projects nimbly and adeptly. We collaborate with other agencies, organizations, businesses and individual landowners to address and resolve issues related to agricultural and forestland productivity and sustainability, and promote conservation practices that protect water, soil, water quality and quantity, native plants and wildlife habitat. We provided leadership in developing the county's integrated regional water management plan. We continually provide technical expertise and assistance to local landowners and educational outreach to the community through public workshops and other events on issues such as integrated water management, tree mortality and fire readiness.

Our assistance has helped maintain viable agricultural operations and working landscapes throughout the county, reduced risks of catastrophic wildfires and enhanced rangeland and forestland health and resiliency. The value of this assistance is immeasurable.

What can be measured are the economic benefits the MCRCD and our federal partner, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, have collectively brought to Mariposa County through our programs and projects. The NRCS's contributions to the county's

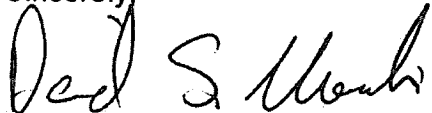
economy over the past 18 years have totaled more than \$14 million through 469 contracts that benefitted almost 229,000 acres. From 2012 through 2014 the MCRCD's benefits to the county through grant funding and project implementation totaled almost \$1.8 million.

This impressive list of accomplishments belies the MCRCD's persistently spartan, often-stressed budget. Individual members of the MCRCD board of directors have discussed our funding needs informally with various supervisors over a number of years, including the possibility of baseline funding from the county's tax base to help cover basic operating costs. Intermittently during those years our board president tried to make our case for baseline funding in presentations to the Board of Supervisors, and on several occasions those efforts looked promising. However, county budget shortfalls and competing demands for county funds have precluded any allocations of county money to the MCRCD except for two target-specific projects: a \$50,000 no-interest bridge loan several years ago, which we repaid in full, and a \$50,000 grant more recently to augment the planning grant the MCRCD received from the Department of Water Resources to develop the integrated regional water management plan for the Yosemite-Mariposa planning area, which encompasses the entire county.

We have historically relied on project-targeted grant funds to carry out our mission, using a nominal percentage of those grants to administer them. However, we have never had a reliable funding stream to meet our core, ongoing operating needs. To try to absorb the costs inherent to hosting a large conference would place yet additional strain on our limited resources, thus prompting this request for fund support to help assure a successful conference, a positive experience and a favorable impression of Mariposa County.

This conference represents yet another MCRCD-generated economic benefit to Mariposa County as well as an opportunity to showcase the county's many appealing attributes, attractions, services and products. We believe it would benefit, and benefit, county government to support this initiative with a \$3,000 contribution to the MCRCD to help defray conference expenses and, in so doing, demonstrate your support of the MCRCD's role in promoting conservation of our mutually valued resources. We will appreciate your favorable consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. Mecchi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Mecchi
President
Mariposa County Resource Conservation District

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

70th Annual Conference

"Healthy Forests, Healthy Soils – A Resilient California"

Greetings RCD Directors, Staff and Partners,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the 70th California Association of Resource Conservation District Annual Conference and Meeting.

In some ways, it seems as if for the RCDs (and NRCS) have been building to this moment for the last 76 years—the international year of the soils. In 1939 we were created to address dust and dirt (our original name being the Soil Conservation Districts), and now, in 2015 we are reminded of how important this basic building block is to the future of our water supply, California, our nation, and the world. It seems simple: dirt. It is so easily overlooked, yet unlocking its secrets unlocks a resilient future. Soil is important to sustaining life: holding water, growing more with less, protecting against forest fire, preventing the widespread sloughing of hillsides, and keeping pollution out of our waterway—with all of the resulting health and environmental impacts it entails. If we can crack the secret of soils, we can create and maintain a healthy and water-resilient California.

Like the RCDs (and NRCS), the management of California has come full circle. Over the past several decades, the trend of management has been focused on ever advancing technology and large scale, systematic solutions. However, it will no longer be enough to rely on an overarching panacea. If California is going to maintain what makes it unique, wonderful, complex, and diverse, we will need to return to our roots (if you will). Each of us need to make changes rooted in where we reside, while also branching out across the State to address our challenges collectively.

No matter where we live, or the challenges specific to that area, we all can call upon the same solutions to be successful by going back to the basic building blocks—soil, water, plant choices, transportation choices, and management with a focus on environmental services. Whether dwelling in an urban hardscape, operating a farm, managing a remote forest or living somewhere in between, these are the common essentials that need to be examined and addressed. Luckily, we have the experience of the last 76 years to guide us.

This conference will use forest management as a case study to examine the basic building blocks of a resilient California. We will look across land-use type to discover those commonalities that can, and must, draw us all together rather than divide us. While our individual challenges may be different, our solutions all lie within the same vein. And while we are at it, we will celebrate soils and the international recognition of the importance of the mission we have spent 76 years building.



Sherman Boone
President
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

Full Conference Registration Includes:

- Conference Sessions – breakout sessions, group presentations, fireside chats, and exhibition booths
- Breakfast - Thursday, November 19th and Friday, November 20th
- Lunch – Thursday, November 19th and Friday, November 20th
- Awards Banquet Dinner – Thursday, November 19th

Conference "Extras": *additional registration and payment required*

Tours: Details To Be Announced – 2 tours of Yosemite area on Saturday, November 21st (afternoon)

Friday Dinner: Details To Be Announced – Please check the conference website for more details!

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

70th Annual Conference - Registration Form

One registration form per person
Please print name as it should appear on nametag

Name: _____

RCD or Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please check all that apply:

Early Registration – before September 8th

RCD Directors and Staff

Conference Registration – 2 Day

Early Registration (\$345)

Regular Registration (\$365)

Partners and Guests

Conference Registration – 2 Day

Early Registration (\$365)

Regular Registration (\$385)

Conference Registration – 1 Day

Thursday, November 19th

Early Registration (\$225)

Regular Registration (\$245)

Conference Registration – 1 Day

Friday, November 20th

Early Registration (\$225)

Regular Registration (\$245)

Training Sessions

Wednesday, November 18th

Yes! Please add training sessions to my registration (free)

Friday Night Dinner

Early Registration (\$25)

Regular Registration (\$35)

Tour – Forestry Committee Tour

Saturday, November 21st – 1pm

Early Registration (\$50)

Regular Registration (\$60)

Tour – TBD

Saturday, November 21st – 1pm

Early Registration (\$50)

Regular Registration (\$60)

Bringing a guest? Name: _____

Meal Tickets:

Thursday, November 19th

Lunch (\$35)

Awards Banquet Dinner (\$45)

Friday, November 20th

Lunch (\$35)

Friday Night Dinner (\$35)

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: CARCD

Please mail, fax or email registration to:

801 K Street, 18th Floor

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 457-7934

jordan-power@carcd.org

\$25 cancelation fee

No refunds after October 30th, 2015

Online registration available at: www.carcd.org

Click on Meeting & Events Tab / Annual Conference