RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2016-234

MEETING:      May 17, 2016
TO:           The Board of Supervisors
FROM:         John Carrier, District V Supervisor
RE:           Letter of Support for Assembly Bill 2678

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve a Letter of Support for Assembly Bill (AB) 2678 Establishing a Revenue Stream for Fairs; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter. AB 2678 would designate that 30% of the revenue received from sales and use tax receipts that are collected on the property of a State designated fair, be deposited into a separate account in the Fair and Exposition Fund and continuously appropriated for those same types of fair-related purposes.

Funding from the State for our local 35-A District Agricultural Association, more commonly known as our Mariposa County Fair, has been greatly reduced and our fairgrounds are in danger of having insufficient funding to continue operations. This bill will help provide needed funding for our local Fair.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has supported legislation that will benefit the County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not approve the letter of support for AB 2678. Individual Board members may write their own letters of support, which may carry the same weight as a letter endorsed by the entire Board.

ATTACHMENTS:
AB2678 Letter of Support    (DOCX)
AB 2678 Bill Language      (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended
RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor
SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Carrier
May 17, 2016

The Honorable Adam Gray
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 2678 as Amended in the Revenue & Taxation Committee

Dear Assembly Member Gray,

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors thanks you for introducing Assembly Bill (AB) 2678, and expresses our strong support for the development of a long-term solution to fund the California Fair network. AB 2678 will create a funding stream for fairs utilizing funding that is generated by the fairs.

The 35-A District Agricultural Association, better known in our community as the Mariposa County Fairgrounds is an integral and extremely valuable asset to our small rural county. Our fairgrounds is used year-round for a multitude of community events, personal events, school sporting events, not to mention our annual fair which is one of the County’s single largest events of the year. In fact, this is the only facility in the entire county with sufficient building and parking to hold large events. During large emergencies such as catastrophic wild land fires our fairgrounds has served as a staging area for incident management teams (both State and Federal), and as an evacuation area for people and animals displaced by the emergency. The California State Mining and Mineral Museum is also housed and operated at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds.

Our local fairground association has used its limited resources very prudently and is stretching every dollar raised from community events and donations to maintain the infrastructure. But given the rising costs of maintenance needs and basic operational costs, our fairgrounds will no longer have sufficient funding to maintain the grounds and keep this important facility open. If the Mariposa County Fairgrounds were to
close, it would have a devastating effect on our County's economy which would impact our small community for many years.

Thank you again for introducing AB 2678.

Sincerely,

JOHN CARRIER
Chairman

cc:  Senator Tom Berryhill
     Assembly Member Frank Bigelow
     Rural County Representatives of California
     California State Association of Counties
     35-A District Agricultural Association