RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2016-484

MEETING: September 20, 2016

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: John Carrier, District V Supervisor

RE: Letter of Support for Mariposa County Fire Safe Council’s SRAFPF and TM Grant Proposals

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve a Letter of Support on behalf of the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council’s nine SRAFPF and TM grant proposals submitted to CAL FIRE to Continue Providing Services to Reduce Wildfire Risk and Increase Public Safety for Mariposa County Residents; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter.

The Mariposa County Fire Safe Council (FSC) is applying to CAL FIRE for funding for nine grant proposals to continue their critical efforts to assist Mariposa residents to comply with defensible space requirements. Since 1998, the FSC has contracted with various organizations to provide a wide range of services to Mariposa citizens, including seniors, low income, disabled individuals, minorities and veterans. Those services include chipping, brushing and removal of slash, limbs, wood and debris around residents’ homes. They also include work along non-county maintained roads and the “senior wood program.” Given the FSC’s track record of providing these critical services to many Mariposa County residents, it is appropriate for the Board to support their efforts to secure necessary funding.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has routinely approved letters of support for issues that it believes will benefit the citizens of Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not approve the letter. Individual members of the Board may write their own letters of support.

ATTACHMENTS:
Letter in support of Fire Safe Council grant proposals (RTF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended
RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
SECONDER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Carrier
September 20, 2016

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Grants Management Unit- SRAFPF and TM Grants
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, Ca. 94244

Re: Mariposa County Fire Safe Council SRAFPF and TM Grant Applications

Dear Selection Committee:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors urges CAL FIRE to approve the SRAFPF and TM grant proposals submitted by the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council (FSC). Mariposa County is the epicenter of California’s Tree Mortality Disaster. The FSC is a critical partner in mitigating the effects of this Disaster. Like the County and other partners, the FSC is focused on reducing the risk of wildfire and thereby increasing the safety of emergency personnel as well as that of homeowners and their structures. The FSC provides valuable services to many Mariposa residents, including seniors, low income, disabled individuals, minorities, and veterans.

The FSC’s nine grant proposals for the SRAFPF and TM grant program will greatly assist our residents with the mitigation of dead/ dying trees within 11 at-risk communities. These grant proposals include:

1) Ponderosa Basin Tree Mortality Mitigation Project
2) Lushmeadows Mountain Estates Tree Mortality Mitigation Project
3) Jerseydale Tree Mortality Mitigation Project
4) Midpines Tree Mortality Mitigation Project
5) Greeley Hill Tree Mortality Mitigation Project
6) Mariposa Countywide Tree Mortality Slash Mitigation Project
7) Mariposa Countywide Tree Mortality Downed Tree Mitigation Project
8) Hazardous Fuels Treatment Along Non-County Maintained Roads Project
9) Ponderosa Basin Fuel Break Expansion and Maintenance Project

These proposed projects will help reduce the risk of wildfire on high and very high fire hazard severity zones within the State Response Area (SRA) and will allow the FSC to provide much-needed assistance to our homeowners that continue to face the economic pressures of the Tree Mortality Disaster.
Mariposa County FSC works collaboratively with a number of different partner organizations to ensure that the maximum quantity and quality of services are provided at the lowest possible expenditure of funds. The FSC has an excellent track record with and continues to work closely with the Madera-Mariposa-Merced CAL FIRE unit on projects such as the senior firewood program, brushing along non-county maintained roads, countywide chipping, and downed tree removal. They also work closely with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, PG&E, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Mariposa County Departments, and Home Owner Associations to ensure that chipping and brushing occurs in close coordination with efforts undertaken by these organizations.

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors asks that CAL FIRE approve these SRAFPF and TM grant proposals so that the FSC can assist our residents with the Tree Mortality Disaster. If the FSC is successful in obtaining these grants it will allow them to continue to deliver these critical services to Mariposa residents in a coordinated, efficient, and cost effective manner.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

JOHN CARRIER
Board of Supervisors, Chair

cc: Mariposa County Fire Safe Council