MARIPOSA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ACTION FORM
HA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
BY: James F. Evans
PHONE: 966-6121

DATE: November 22, 1994
AGENDA ITEM NO: 6-B

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: (POLICY ITEM: YES__ NO_X__)

Discussion and Possible Action regarding a US Forest Service Special Use Permit Application in Cooperation with the American Indian Council of Mariposa County and including the Approved Project in the US Forest Service Action Plan for the Bower Cave/Jordan Creek Special Interest Area. (Previous Board Direction).

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

See attached memo.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION.

See attached memo for Use Permit alternatives. Negative Action would maintain the current undeveloped, unprotected status of the site.

COSTS: (X) Not Applicable

A. Budgeted CURRENT FY $________
B. Total anticipated costs $________
C. Required Add'l funding $________
D. Internal Transfers $________

SOURCE: ( ) 4/5ths vote required

A. Unanticipated revenues $________
B. Reserve for contingencies $________
C. Source description:
Balance in Reserve for Contingencies, if approved: $________

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
List the attachments and number pages consecutively:

__________________________________________________________
_2 page memo

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

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CLERK'S USE ONLY:
Resolution No.: 94-501
Ordinance No.: ________
Vote - Ayes: ________ Noes: ________
Absent: ________ Abstain: ________
( ) Approved ( ) Denied
(X) Minute Order Attached
( ) No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: ________

ATTEST: MARGIE WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa,
State of California

By: Deputy

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION:

This item on agenda as:

/ _ Recommended
/ _ Not Recommended
/ _ Policy Determination
/ _ Submitted w/ Comment
/ Returned for further action

Comment: __________________________________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

A.O. Initials: ______________
TO: JIM EVANS, Housing and Community Development Agency Director
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT: Possible Action Regarding U.S. Forest Service Special Use Permit Application Re Bower Cave/Jordan Creek Special Interest Area Resolution Number 94-501

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,
ADOPTED THIS Order on November 22, 1994

ACTION AND VOTE:
9:34 a.m. Jim Evans, Housing and Community Development Agency Director;

D) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a United States Forest Service Special Use Permit Application in Cooperation with the American Indian Council of Mariposa County and Including the Approved Project in the United States Forest Service Action Plan for the Bower Cave/Jordan Creek Special Interest Area

BOARD ACTION: Discussion was held with Jim Evans. Bill Leonard/American Indian Council of Mariposa County, provided input. Supervisor Balmain thanked Ken Gosting for presenting copies of the story run in Life Magazine in May 1953 on the Cave. (M)Balmain, (S)Taber, Res. 94-501 adopted authorizing submission of a joint application with the American Indian Council for a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service; amending the existing County Rural Revitalization Program Action Plan to include management of the Bower Cave/Jordan Creek Special Interest Area; and directing Housing and Community Development Agency Director to seek funding for fencing of the site/Ayes: Unanimous. Supervisor Balmain advised of the Northside History Center’s interest in this project.

cc: Jeffrey G. Green, County Counsel
File
November 14, 1994

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: James F. Evans, Director

SUBJECT: BOWER CAVE

On September 20, 1994, the Board directed HCDA to
work with the Forest Service, PG&E, and
American Indian Council to come up with
a program that would protect and enhance
Bower Cave and make it available to the
public, including direction that a special
use permit...be sought from the Forest Service.

As we discussed, the USFS has adopted a Bower Cave/Jordan
Creek Special Interest Area (SIA) Management Plan which
allows public day use and overnight camping. Protection of
Bower Cave is accomplished by allowing viewing but not
actual access to the floor and walls of the Cave.

Attached please find a letter from the American Indian
Council of Mariposa County approving in concept a joint
application with the County for a Use Permit for the Bower
Cave/Jordan Creek SIA.

Therefore, I recommend consideration of the following:

1) The County submit a joint application with the Council
   OR support an individual Indian Council application OR
   submit an individual County application for a Special
   Use Permit from the USFS in accordance with existing
   USFS Management Plan(s).

2) Amend the existing Mariposa County Rural Revitalization
   Program Action Plan to include management of the Bower
   Cave/Jordan Creek SIA. This would facilitate USFS
   funding for this Project.

3) Direct me to seek funding from PG & E or other local
   organizations to install interim fencing to discourage
   vandalism on Bower Cave.

Thank you for your consideration and direction regarding
this matter.
October 19, 1994

James F. Evans, Director
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
P. O. Box 39
Mariposa, CA 95338

Re: Bower Cave/Jordan Creek

Dear Jim:

In response to your letter dated October 12, 1994, the Board of Directors met on October 13, 1994, and approved in concept joining the County of Mariposa in making application to the U.S. Forest Service for a Use Permit on the Bower Cave/Jordan Creek site.

Our long term goals would be to preserve the Cave and surrounding areas for traditional Mi-Wok spiritual and ceremonial uses as well as limited visitation in accordance with established U.S. Forest Service plans.

Thank you for your consideration and inclusion of the American Indian Council of Mariposa County Inc. in this process.

Sincerely,

William H. Leonard
Chairman

WHL/pml
P.O. Box 320  
Catheys Valley, CA 95306  
966-6753

November 17, 1994

Jim Evens, Director  
Mariposa County Housing and Community Development Agency  
P.O. Box 39  
Mariposa, CA 95338

Dear Jim:

The American Indian Council's proposal to work with the Stanislaus National Forest staff and preserve Bower Cave is good news. Their presentation to the Board of Supervisors on November 22 will be an important step in this effort.

The Supervisors agreed at their September 20 meeting that prompt action must be taken to protect this unique and fragile treasure and at last open it and the surrounding area to responsible visitors. It's essential that the community lend our support. We look forward to working together with you and the American Indian Council to insure that this project moves forward without delay.

Thank you, Jim, for your effort so far. As you know, many people have expressed concern and willingness to help.

Sincerely,

Caroline Wenger Korn