MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: MIKE EDWARDS, INTERIM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, CLERK OF THE BOARD
RE: COURTHOUSE LANDSCAPE AND LIGHTING PLANS

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on May 25, 1993

ACTION AND VOTE:

D) Resolution Approving Funding for Preparation of Landscape, Lighting and Site Improvement Plans for the Courthouse

BOARD ACTION: Res. 93-306 adopted approving recommended action. Motion was amended, agreeable with maker and second, directing that the historical aspect be given top consideration/Ayes: (M) Baggett, (S) Parker, Balmain, Erickson; Excused: Taber.

cc: Evelyn Billings, Auditor
    Tony Lashbrook, Planning/Building Department
    Historical Sites and Records Preservation
    Commission Chairman
    Scott Pinkerton/Courthouse Historian
    File
RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:  (Policy Item: Yes___ No_X)

Adopt this Resolution approving funding in the amount of $8,000 for preparation of plans for improvement of the Courthouse grounds. Funding would be from the "Courthouse Temp Construction" fund within the Capital Improvement Projects budget.

The plans will include landscaping, lighting and other site improvements to the grounds suitable for bidding purposes. It will be coordinated with the Prop 116 sidewalk project and the P.G. and E. "Rule 20A" utility underground project. Input will be sought from involved community members, the Historical Sites and Records Preservation Commission, the Butterfly Garden Club and others. Approval from the State Office of Historic Preservation is necessary. Many differing views as to the appropriate form of site improvements will have to be balanced.

Design will be accomplished by Planning Department staff and Roads Division Engineering staff at their reimbursable rates. The revenue will assist the Planning Department with fee revenue shortfalls due to slow development activity. Refer to the attached estimate of $2,600 from Planning for their costs for the landscape design portion. The estimate for Public Works' portion is $5,400 which includes surveying, drainage, sidewalks, grading, lighting and other "hardscape" improvements as well as cost estimating and preparation of all bidding and construction documents. A portion of the sidewalk design costs will be provided by the Prop 116 funds.

This action is being brought to the Board's attention now, rather than in the context of the FY 93/94 budget, for several reasons:

1. There is a desire on the part of many citizens (see attached letter) to move forward with beautification of the Courthouse grounds now that the building renovation is complete.

2. The timing coincides with the P.G. and E. underground utility project and the Prop 116 design which will facilitate the lighting and sidewalk aspects of the project.

3. Due to slow development activity, landscape architecture services from the Planning Department are available.

A plan with this level of detail is necessary to accurately identify construction costs and funding sources. It also provides a firm guideline if volunteer labor and material contributions are to be solicited. The ultimate construction cost is estimated in the $100,000 range, based on a contract project. Design costs typically run about 10% of construction costs.

The Superior Court and Justice Court Judges have been consulted and both agree that this is an appropriate expenditure of these funds.

When complete, the documents will be presented to the Board for adoption as the official Courthouse grounds improvement plan.
BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

Several years ago, a comprehensive site improvement study was completed by landscape architect students from Cal Poly. This plan was presented to the Board, Historical Sites and Records Preservation Commission, Butterfly Garden Club and others. It contains various design alternatives, but lacks a single adopted plan and the necessary detail to move forward with funding and construction decisions.

By Resolution 89-630, the Board established the Mariposa County Underground Utility District No. 1 which provides for expenditures of P.U.C. Rule 20A funds to remove unsightly overhead utilities around the Courthouse. This project is now under construction and a related issue (funding of individual conversions) is on this Board Agenda for consideration.

On May 4, 1993, the Board approved the County's claim for Proposition 116 funds which includes construction of sidewalks and curbs around the remaining perimeter of the Courthouse square.

In the 92/93 final budget process, the Board approved funding of the "Courthouse Temp Construction" line in the C.I.P. budget but did not allocate the funds to any particular projects.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

1. No action. The detailed plans necessary to move forward with needed site improvements would be delayed indefinitely.
2. Provide a different funding source.

COSTS:  

( ) Not Applicable
A. Budgeted current FY $ 26,255
B. Total anticipated costs $ 8,000
C. Required additional funding $ -0-
D. Internal transfers $

SOURCE:  

( ) 4/5th Vote Required
A. Unanticipated revenues $
B. Reserve for contingencies $
C. Source description: Line 301-100-4-301
Balance in Reserve Contingencies, if approved: $

* This was budgeted in the C.I.P. under "Courthouse Temp Construction" but was not allocated to any project(s).

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:  
List the attachments and number the pages consecutively:

1. Letter from Butterfly Garden Club (2 Pgs)
2. Williams/Edwards Memo w/Cost Estimate (2 Pgs)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:
This item on agenda as:
✓ Recommended
Not Recommended
For Policy Determination
Submitted with Comment
Returned for Further Action

Comment: ____________________________

A.O. Initials: 

Action Form Revised 5/92
Mr. Larry Pollard, Director
Department of Public Works
4639 Ben Hur Road
Mariposa, Ca. 95338
February 4, 1993

Dear Mr. Pollard,

As the representative for Butterfly Garden Club on the County Historical Sites & Records Preservation Commission, I was asked to respond to your memorandum of November 6, 1992, to the Board of Supervisors.

This is to inform you of Butterfly Garden Clubs Historic Preservation & Landscaping Project.

I am sorry to be so long in doing so.

Several years ago, Butterfly Garden Club asked three students from Cal Poly to help plan and present a complete master plan for the Mariposa County Courthouse Grounds. After meeting with garden club members, supervisors, representatives from public works and the historical sites and records preservation commission this was completed and approved by all. This was to be completed in stages. Hence-forth the removal of the fence on the west side of the courthouse and curb & sidewalk installed.

The rose garden was deleted from the plan in the end because of the care and water required. It was suggested we build a gazebo instead and plant a few roses around the sides.

Because restoration of the courthouse was planned, we were asked to wait until the work was completed to begin the project.

Since large air vents were installed outside of the building & the well was uncovered, this will change the layout of flower beds and walks around the building. Some camouflaging can be done also.

My committee is working on this at the present time. Because of illness and other problems this fall and winter, we have been slow in completing the changes. We hope to complete this, with approvals, so some plantings can be started this spring.

Plantings will be done in the style of the 1850 - 1900 with historic plants that might have been planted here, plus many native plants.
Walks will be terra-crete ( around the building ), a combination of soil and concrete. This holds up well and blends in well.
The irrigation system will need revising also.

We hope the county will be able to fund this project to completion. If not we plan getting the community involved in fund raising and possible help.
We realize this is a major project and will take time and money to complete properly. The garden club will furnish plants and amendments for this project.

We have a courthouse we should all be proud of, with visitors from all over the world, we would like to see it stand out in grounds as well as building.

With your help and support it can be done.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 878-3719.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Butterfly Garden Club
Historic Preservation & Landscape
Chairman

cc: Butterfly Garden Club
    Blaine Sturtenant, Chairman
    Historical Sites & Records
    Preservation Commission
    Board of Supervisors
April 16, 1993

MEMORANDUM

TO:    Mike Edwards, Interim Public Works Director
FROM:  Sarah Williams, Assistant Planner
RE:    Cost Estimate for Mariposa County Courthouse Landscape and Site Improvements Plan

Attached, please find a cost estimate for preparation of a landscaping and site plan for the Courthouse as you requested last month. As I’ve learned during my brief research and consultations for the street lighting project, any change to the Courthouse or grounds is very controversial. In addition, there are specific State review requirements mandated by our receipt of State grant funds (for the recent Courthouse project). Balancing the various concerns of local citizens and groups, as well as the requirements of the State Office of Historic Preservation, will be a delicate task. In fact, it is quite likely that any plan will not satisfy all parties concerned. In any case, my estimate includes some "padding" to cover various correspondence, telephone conversations and meetings with the persons, committees, clubs, County Departments and State Offices which desire to be involved or have some stake in this project.

If you have any questions regarding this estimate, please stop by or give me a call.

Thanks.
COST ESTIMATE
MARIPOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE SITE PLAN

TASKS TO BE COMPLETED

1. Gather base materials and review background studies and information (including photographs which document plants historically used) 8

2. Preparatory meetings and telephone conversations with Butterfly Garden Club 8

3. Preparation of draft reproducible construction plans, details and specifications (including details and specs for sidewalk, "terracrete" walk, light fixture and base, tree planting, shrub planting, plant quality and selection, soil preparation, trash receptacle, benches, retaining wall?, and fence?) (boilerplate contract specifications per Public Works standard) 80

4. Attendance at and presentation of draft plans to:
   - Butterfly Garden Club 4
   - Historical Sites and Records Preservation Commission 4
   - Board of Supervisors 2

5. Preparation of final construction plans, details, and specifications with changes 20

6. Attendance at and presentation of final plans to:
   - Board of Supervisors 2

7. Preparation of materials take-off list for use in preparing construction cost estimate 4

8. Preparation of design criteria for irrigation system 2

TOTAL ESTIMATE IN HOURS 134

HOURLY RATE (including benefits) X $19.45

TOTAL COST ESTIMATE $ 2606.30

(see next page for notes) 2-C