RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2017-128

MEETING: March 14, 2017

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dallin Kimble, Interim CAO

RE: Letter of Support for AB 174

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve a Letter of Support for Assembly Bill 174, Which Would Require One Member of the California Transportation Commission to Come from a County with Fewer Than 100,000 People; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter.

The mission of the California Transportation Commission is to be a unified voice for transportation issues in California, but all eleven members of the Commission currently reside in counties with more than one million residents. Assembly Bill 174 would help ensure the unique challenges and needs of rural communities are heard by the Commission.

Please see the attached letter and bill language for additional information.

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

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

ATTACHMENTS:
AB174 Support Letter (DOCX)
AB 174 Text (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended

Dallin Kimble
Dallin Kimble, Interim CAO 3/8/2017
RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor
AYES: Menetrey, Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann
March 14, 2017

The Honorable Frank Bigelow
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0005

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 174 (Bigelow)

Dear Assembly Member Bigelow:

On behalf of the County of Mariposa, I am writing to support your Assembly Bill (AB) 174, which would require one voting member of the California Transportation Commission (Commission) to reside in a county with a population of less than 100,000.

The Commission’s mission is to be a unified voice for transportation issues in California; however, all eleven members of the Commission currently reside in a county with a population over 1 million. It is impossible for the Commission to meet their mission as a unified voice for transportation issues in California with this formation.

As the home of Yosemite National Park, our roads annually welcome millions of visitors in their cars, trucks, busses and RVs, and are a reflection on the State of California to visitors from around the world. But, as you know the challenges of funding and maintaining roads in rural areas can be very different from those in more populated areas. While Orange County, for example, has 310 times as many residents paying taxes and garaging vehicles per road mile, few California counties see as much bus, RV and heavy equipment traffic as a percentage of their total vehicles on the road as Mariposa does. In addition, Mariposa has limited opportunities for mass transit and requires more resources for snow removal than most of our urban counterparts. A commissioner with a working knowledge of these and other challenges common to rural communities will aid the Commission in presenting a unified voice for roads and transportation that will reflect the best of California to our residents and visitors.

Assembly Bill 174 will ensure the voices of small, rural California counties are heard on transportation issues. Our rural roads are crumbling and polka-dotted with pot holes, and shovel-ready projects to update our infrastructure keep getting delayed for lack of funding. The time has come to ensure our issues have a voice and a vote.

It is for the reasons stated above that we enthusiastically support AB 174 and thank you for your work on behalf of rural California.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Marshall Long, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors