RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2017-277

MEETING: May 9, 2017

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Sarah Williams, Planning Director

RE: Letter to NPS on Wawona Wastewater Treatment System Rehabilitation

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve a Letter to Yosemite National Park Acting Superintendent Submitting Comments for the Scoping Process for the Wawona Wastewater Treatment System Rehabilitation Project; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to sign the letter.

The draft letter and suggested comments are based on County-adopted documents, including the Wawona Town Planning Area Specific Plan.

Please see the attached letter and scoping noticing for additional information.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
None related to this NPS project.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Alternative: Modify text in draft letter.
Negative action would result in no letter sent by Mariposa County in response to scoping process.

ATTACHMENTS:
170509 Letter to NPS-Scoping Period for Wawona WWTP Upgrade Project (DOCX)
2017_03_24 Wawona WWTP Upgrade Fact Sheet (DOCX)
WWTP Map for Public Scoping (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended

Dallin Kimble
Dallin Kimble, Interim CAO 5/4/2017
RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey
May 9, 2017

Chip Jenkins, Acting Superintendent
National Park Service
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Re: Mariposa County Scoping Comments on the Wawona Wastewater Treatment System Rehabilitation Project

Dear Acting Superintendent Jenkins,

Mariposa County appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the scoping process for the Wawona Wastewater Treatment System Rehabilitation project. We understand the project has three components:

1. Upgrade the plant’s infrastructure in collaboration with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. With respect to capacity, this specifically includes:
   - Provide the capability to adapt to high summer and low winter flows
   - Increase capacity to accept increased flows from visitor facilities with failing leach fields and unserved parcels in the community currently served by septic systems

2. Connect the Wawona Campground to the Wawona Wastewater Treatment Plant.

3. Remove the single-stall vault toilet at the South Fork Picnic area and replace it with a flushing toilet facility and tie it in to the new sewer at Wawona Campground. This component is dependent on funding.

Regarding capacity, Mariposa County believes the project should include sufficient capacity to address:

a) All current demands from structures and development in Wawona, Section 35 and
b) Ultimate buildout of undeveloped parcels as contemplated in the Wawona Town Planning Area Specific Plan as approved by both Mariposa County and the Yosemite National Park Superintendent.
This comment considers the following:

- Adopted MOU for Wawona, Agreement Number: M-YOSERV003, Article III.B.2
  
  - “The SERVICE shall, within private lands in Wawona, Section 35, subject to availability of funds... provide a wastewater treatment system for Wawona, Section 35.”

- Adopted Wawona Town Plan:
  
  - Section A1.2.1 which requires, “All private parcels of land for which construction is proposed and that require the provisions of sewage disposal shall be required to use the central sewer system if available.”
  
  - Goal 3-1 which establishes, “Development of the Wawona Basin lands in Section 35 shall be undertaken only when it can reasonably be expected that such development will not result in the unnecessary or inappropriate degradation of the natural environmental amenities of the area.”
  
  - Goal 3-3 which establishes, “Development, within the various land use areas of the Wawona Basin, shall be designated in such a manner as to assure the availability of adequate public services for residents and visitors alike.”

- Mariposa County Code, Section 13.08.040 Public sewer connections, which requires, “Every dwelling, place of business, or other building or place where persons reside, congregate, or are employed, that is within two hundred feet of, and may connect to, a public sewage system, shall be connected thereto...”

- The certified Mariposa County General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which states, “The draft General Plan addresses the constraints for on-site sewage disposal systems in several ways. Higher intensity uses are directed to develop within planning areas, where access to public sewage systems would be available.”

- According to the County’s Environmental Health Division Director, most, if not all of the lots in Wawona are small lots with less than desirable soil conditions to install an on-site septic disposal system. A community wastewater treatment system, managed and maintained by a public entity, with permitting oversight from a state agency, ensures adequate wastewater treatment for all developed/developable parcels in the Wawona Planning Area.

We appreciate your consideration of this information.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Marshall Long
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, Chair

Cc: Wawona Town Planning Advisory Committee (WTPAC)