RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2017-594

MEETING: September 12, 2017

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer

RE: Ratify Letter of Support for California Association of RCD Application

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Ratify a Letter Supporting the California Association of Resource Conservation District’s Application for a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Grant and Confirming Mariposa County’s Participation in the Proposed Activities.

The proposed RCPP activities will be part of Mariposa’s overall county-wide efforts to comprehensively address conservation issues surrounding tree mortality, climate change, and forest health. Felling dead trees on public and private land reduces the risk of property damage caused by falling trees or wildfire, which also releases large amounts of carbon and other greenhouse gases. When feasible, trees may be removed to facilities where biomass can be used to produce energy, soil amendments and other valuable products.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has ratified letters supporting or opposing legislation.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not ratify the letter, and direct staff to draft a letter withdrawing the letter of support.

ATTACHMENTS:
Letter of Support-082417 (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended

Dallin Kimble
Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer 9/7/2017
RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor
SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey
August 24, 2017

Mark A. Rose, Director
Financial Assistance Programs Division
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service RCPP Application
Post Office Box 2890 Washington, D.C. 20013-2890

Dear Director Rose:

We are pleased to write this letter supporting the California Association of RCD’s application for a Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant, and confirming Mariposa County’s partnership in the proposed activities. The proposal supports our efforts to respond to one of the most critical conservation challenges facing Mariposa County, the epicenter of the tree mortality disaster. The tree mortality crisis threatens infrastructure, roads, and structures throughout the region. More importantly, it threatens the ecological health of the region, particularly the forestlands, for decades to come. Privately owned non-industrial forestlands are an important component of this crisis. The dead trees represent an extreme wildfire risk, and fires spread. Whether started on public or private land, a wildfire encountering a high concentration of dead trees will grow to dangerous intensity. Such catastrophic fires destroy both man-made and natural resources. Maintaining healthy and resilient conditions on non-industrial private forestlands is an important component of our efforts to avoid such disasters.

The proposed RCPP activities will be part of Mariposa’s overall county-wide efforts to comprehensively address conservation issues surrounding tree mortality, climate change, and forest health. By cutting down the dead trees on public and private land we are reducing the risk of wildfire, which would release large amounts of carbon and other greenhouse gases. We are further working to remove those trees to central processing facilities where the biomass can be used to produce energy, soil amendments, and other valuable products. We are also helping to maintain healthy and resilient forest lands. These activities help sequester carbon and further the state's GHG reduction goals.

Mariposa County is contributing the following activities to this effort:

Mariposa County -- An Equal Opportunity Employer
• We have been providing information and will continue to provide outreach to private non-industrial forest landowners regarding the resources available through the proposed RCPP.

• We estimate the value of this in-kind effort to be $120,000 over the three year grant period.

• We have invested county resources in the amount of $80,000 to remove hazard trees in the vicinity of the non-industrial private forestland which is the subject of this proposal. Our activities will help promote the forest health on those target lands.

Mariposa County continues to support grants and investments made by our local Resource Conservation District, Fire Safe Council and Utility Services. So far this year Mariposa County has eliminated an estimated 60,000 hazardous trees and established several additional miles of fuel breaks.

We estimate the total value of our contribution for all tree related mitigation this year to be around $120,000.

The RCPP grant will be a very important resource for Mariposa County residents and we encourage you to favorably consider funding it.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Marshall Long
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, Chair