MEETING: October 24, 2017

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer

RE: Continue the Railroad, Peak, Cathedral Spires Fires Local Emergency

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Continue Local Emergency Due to the Railroad, Peak and Cathedral Spires Fires. On August 29, 2017, the Railroad Fire began in the Sugar Pine area near the Mariposa-Madera county line. Over the course of a week it managed to burn more than 11,000 acres, closing highways, damaging infrastructure, destroying structures, and threatening the Fish Camp community.

On September 3, 2017, Mariposa County received notification that a Federal Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) for the Railroad Fire had been approved for Mariposa and Madera Counties. Although some evacuations have begun to be lifted in this area, the Railroad Fire continues to burn with less than 50 percent containment.

Also on September 3, the County responded with its partner agencies to two new fires reported within Mariposa. The Peak Fire has burned more than 650 acres in the Usona area of Mariposa County. The Cathedral Spires burned approximately 5 acres in Lush Meadows, one of the County’s densest population centers. All of these fires have triggered evacuations, resulted in the loss of private residences and either damaged or created potential threats to public infrastructure.

On September 6, 2017, Board Chair Marshall Long, acting in his capacity as the Acting Director of Emergency Services pursuant to Mariposa County Code Section 2.80.040, issued the attached Proclamation declaring a local emergency as a result of the Railroad, Peak and Cathedral Spires Fires.

On September 6, 2017, Governor Edmund G. Brown, JR. proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in Madera (Railroad Fire and Mission Fire), Mariposa (Railroad Fire and Peak Fire), and Tulare Counties (Pier Fire).

On September 12, 2017, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 17-597 ratifying a Proclamation of the existence of a local emergency and requesting State and Federal resources be made available for the County of Mariposa.