RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-379

MEETING:    July 2, 2019

TO:         The Board of Supervisors

FROM:       Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer

RE:         Agreement for Agricultural Commissioner / Sealer Services with Merced County

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve an Agreement with Merced County to Provide Agricultural Commissioner / Sealer of Weights and Measures Services ($144,960); and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Agreement.

The Mariposa County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures is responsible for several vital county functions including monitoring, maintaining and enforcing standards for agricultural plant health, weed prevention and management, pest prevention, animal health, food safety and measurement standards. The agricultural commissioner position is one of a small handful mandated by state code and held to strict state licensing requirements.

After recruiting efforts were unsuccessful, the Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Merced County to provide vital agricultural commissioner and weights and measures services last year. This MOU effectively renews that agreement with an increase of $5,760 to help cover Merced cost of living increases for the staff engaged in Mariposa.

It is the stated goal of the Board of Supervisors to find and appoint a local agricultural commissioner. As executive salaries are evaluated and possibly revised in the coming months, both parties to this agreement anticipate a recruitment effort. This MOU can be terminated prior to the end of the term if such an effort is successful.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
Mariposa County contracted for many years with the commissioners in Stanislaus or Madera Counties for agricultural commissioner / sealer of weights and measures services. Doing so provided an opportunity for an internal candidate to achieve the appropriate licensing and eventually be appointed as the commissioner and sealer for the County.

The Board approved Resolution 2018-280 on June 12, 2019, which appointed the
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Merced County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures to the same position in Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not approve the agreement. Staff will seek direction to recruit for an agricultural commissioner / sealer of weights and measures.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
Appropriate funds are included in the Agricultural Commissioner account of the General Fund requested budget for FY20

ATTACHMENTS:
FY20 Merced Agriculture MOU (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
SECONDER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
AYES: Merlin Jones, Marshall Long, Kevin Cann, Miles Menetrey
EXCUSED: Rosemarie Smallcombe