RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-643

MEETING: November 12, 2019

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Miles Menetrey, District V Supervisor

RE: Letter of Support for Resource Conservation District for a Grant Application

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve a Letter of Support for Mariposa County Resource Conservation District’s (MCRC) application for the Bear Creek Tribal Water Storage project for the WaterSmart Cooperative Watershed Management grant program; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter (Supervisor Menetrey.)

This project has been included in the Yosemite-Mariposa IRWM plan since 2014, but has not been implemented due to a lack of funding. Implementation of this WaterSmart funding would allow RCD to perform preliminary design and engineering and obtain necessary permits to realize the project. It will build on local efforts to collaborate, plan strategically, develop projects, and obtain funding to protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has approved letters in support of other efforts that will benefit the County or its residents.

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:
WaterSmart Draft Support Letter (DOCX)

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
SECONDER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey
November 12, 2019

Robin Graber  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Water Resources and Planning Division  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

Subject: SUPPORT FOR MARIPOSA COUNTY RCD WATERSMART APPLICATION

Dear Ms. Graber:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District’s (RCD) application for the Bear Creek Tribal Water Storage project for your WaterSmart Cooperative Watershed Management grant program.

We believe that the American Indian Council of Mariposa County’s water storage project would be a great benefit to the community by stretching scarce water supplies and avoiding conflicts over water. This project has been included in the Yosemite-Mariposa IRWM plan since 2014, but has not been implemented due to a lack of funding. The WaterSmart grant would meet the Bureau’s mission of restoring trust with local communities by improving relationships and communication with the state, tribes and the Yosemite-Mariposa IRWM watershed group. WaterSmart funding would allow us to perform preliminary design and engineering and obtain necessary permits to realize the project. It builds on local efforts to collaborate, plan strategically, develop projects, and obtain funding to protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

As a participant in the Yosemite-Mariposa Integrated Regional Water Management Group, we are familiar with the work done by the Mariposa County RCD to serve as administrator of the IRWM plan, share information, secure funding, and assist with project prioritization and development.

We encourage you to award a WaterSmart Cooperative Watershed Management grant to the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District to implement the Bear Creek Tribal Water Storage project.

Sincerely,

Miles Menetrey, Board Chair  
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors