RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-440

MEETING: July 23, 2019

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Sarah Williams, Planning Director

RE: Resolution Approving the Submittal of Grant Application for Prop. 68 Funds- Mariposa TerraCount Tool

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Adopt a resolution approving the submittal of an Application to the Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program Grant Funds (Proposition 68) for the Mariposa County TerraCount Tool; and Authorize the Board Chair to sign the Letter of Support.

The goal of the TerraCount project is to acquire an accounting protocol and tool to estimate and monitor greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions and other related co-benefits associated with changes in land use, land management and conservation.

The data generated by the TerraCount tool will provide a baseline for County GHG and carbon stock outputs. This opportunity will significantly advance the county’s efforts to quantify available carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions and provide needed data to implement the following General Plan Strategic Implementation year 2, 3, and 4 tasks:

- Task 2.4: Environmental Conservation Program
- Task 3.1: Greenhouse Gas Reduction (GHG) Program
- Task 4.5 Agricultural Best Practices Program

Another outcome is to gain data that will also assist the County in meeting the State’s efforts to be carbon neutral by the year 2030. The quantification of the carbon stocks, especially on agricultural, forest and working landscapes is critical information needed for various planning efforts that include the GHG strategy as well as co-benefits such as to assist in fire resiliency planning. If funded, future planned activities to reduce GHG may include:

- Quantification of carbon sequestration values associated with current policies for ag and working landscape lands in county
- Quantification of GHG values associated with current land use policies that protect oak woodlands
- Values of maintaining Riparian ecosystems
- Values of improved forest management activities
- Quantification of fuels reduction activities
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This grant will tangibly and significantly be a service to Mariposa County, Yosemite National Park, and the State of California. It will broaden the way the community thinks about conservation and climate planning, while opening the door to more science-based land management practices. The data generated will enhance the County GIS and core data available for planning scenarios and modeling (Attachment - TerraCount Graphics Handout). Finally, the data could also be of benefit to other ongoing programs, such as implementation of the IRWM (Integrated Regional Water Management) Plan, and the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee's Community Conservation and Wildfire Protection Plan (CCWPP).

Staff is working with the Department of Conservation and Sustainable Growth Council (SGC) on a complimentary grant application for the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Planning Grant. The TerraCount tool will generate data to inform a long range agricultural lands planning and resiliency strategy; the SALC grant application will provide funding to develop that strategy. A separate request for Board authorization to submit the SALC application will be scheduled.

The SGC was identified in General Plan Strategic Implementation Work Plan as a potential source of funding for the GHG reduction program task 3.1.

The TerraCount tool will serve the entire community, providing invaluable data on our natural assets, identifying the co-benefits of GHG reduction in our communities, and bolstering our knowledge of the lands we rely on.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board approved General Plan Strategic Implementation Work Plan includes GHG Reduction Program and identifies potential funding sources for the activity.

The Board has approved grant applications in the past for programs that benefit the citizens of Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not approve applying for the Sustainable Communities Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Grant Program for the TerraCount tool (Prop 68) Grant Funds. This action will eliminate Mariposa County from being a possible recipient of the grant funds

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
Potential grant revenues if awarded.

ATTACHMENTS:
BOS Letter of Support (DOCX)
BOS Draft Resolution Mariposa TerraCount Tool (DOCX)
TerraCount Grant Excerpt & Information (PDF)
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RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
SECONDER: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey
July 9, 2019

David Dodd
Program Development and Grant Manager
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

To the Department of Conservation Grant Review Panel,

I'm writing on behalf of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors to encourage you to favorably consider Mariposa County’s application to the Sustainable Communities Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Grant Program for the TerraCount tool. By creating an inventory of the County’s celebrated natural resources and identifying the effect that greenhouse gas (GHG) has on these resources the project will have enormous benefits on a range of social, cultural, and ecological priorities.

The TerraCount tool will be instrumental in assisting decision makers and policy planners with information on the County’s current environmental planning needs. This grant will tangibly and significantly be a service to Mariposa County, Yosemite National Park, and the State of California. It will broaden the way our community thinks about conservation and climate planning, while opening the door to more science-based land management practices. This opportunity will significantly advance our community’s efforts to quantify the County’s available carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions, while simultaneously supporting the County’s General Plan implementation of a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program and the State’s efforts to be carbon neutral by 2030. The TerraCount tool will serve the entire community, providing invaluable data on our natural assets, identifying the co-benefits of GHG reduction in our communities, and bolstering our knowledge of the lands we rely on.

We endorse the County’s application, and are committed to participating in all phases of this project. From public health to tourism, economic development to natural resource conservation, and cultural interpretation to natural hazard resiliency, we understand the profound and comprehensive potential for this project to benefit our community and long range planning efforts. As the Board chair, I can tell you we are collectively excited to be involved in the project. This is a tremendous opportunity, one which has the Board of Supervisors’ full support.

Sincerely,

Miles Menetrey
Mariposa County, Board Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MARIPOSA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Resolution
No. 2019-440  A resolution of support approving the application for Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program Grant Funds (Proposition 68), administered by the California Department of Conservation.

WHEREAS, the State Department of Conservation has been delegated the responsibility by the Legislature of the State of California for the administration of the Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Grant Program, setting up necessary procedures governing the application; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Conservation require the Applicant to certify by resolution the approval of the application before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, successful Applicants will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete the Grant Scope project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors hereby:
APPROVES THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE MARIPOSA COUNTY TERRACOUNT TOOL; and

1. Certifies that said Applicant has or will have available, prior to commencement of any work on the project included in this application, the sufficient funds to complete the project; and

2. Certifies that if the project is awarded, the Applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project, and

3. Certifies that the Applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the contract shown in the Grant Administration Guide; and

4. Delegates the authority to the Planning Director of the County of Mariposa to conduct all negotiations, sign and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the Grant Scope; and

5. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines; and

ON MOTION BY Supervisor Long, seconded by Supervisor Cann, this resolution is duly approved and adopted this 23rd day of July, 2019.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 19-440 was duly adopted by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors following a roll call vote:

Ayes: SMALLCOMBE, JONES, LONG, CANN, MENETREY
Noes: NONE
Absent: NONE

[Signature]
Miles Menetrey, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

[Signature]
René LaRoche, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature]
Steven W. Dahlem, County Counsel
California Department of Conservation
Solicitation Notice and Application for:
Local and Regional Planning Projects

Pursuant To

Proposition 68 Guidelines
Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program

FINAL
May 31, 2019
At-A-Glance

Program
The Department of Conservation is pleased to announce funding opportunities for Local and Regional Planning projects. This solicitation is made pursuant to the Department of Conservation’s Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program Guidelines approved on May 29, 2019. This solicitation specifies the eligibility and evaluation criteria, application process, grant award and grant administration processes for Local and Regional Planning projects funded under this program.

Critical Dates (proposed, subject to change)
Solicitation Notice and Application released —May 31, 2019
Applications due —July 31, 2019
Awards Announced—September 5, 2019

Contact for Questions
Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
Virginia Jameson, Program Manager
CFCP@conservation.ca.gov
(916) 324-0868
Section 1: Introduction and Program Summary

Background

The Department of Conservation is pleased to announce funding opportunities for Local and Regional Planning projects. Funding for these projects is available from the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) through the Department of Conservation’s Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program. This solicitation specifies the eligibility and evaluation criteria, application process, and grant award and administration processes for Local and Regional Planning projects funded through the Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program.

California leads the way on greenhouse gas emissions reductions and sound planning will advance those reductions further. This component of the Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program is designed to assist local governments, regional governments, and planning organizations meet the planning requirements set forth in state law and the challenges of adopting land use plans and integrating strategies to transform communities and create long-term prosperity.

Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program Guidelines

This solicitation is made pursuant to the Department of Conservation’s Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program Guidelines (Guidelines) approved on May 29, 2019. The Guidelines set forth the general requirements for projects funded through the Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program. All projects funded under this solicitation must adhere to the requirements set forth in the Guidelines.

The terms of this solicitation shall control if there is a conflict with the Guidelines.

Funding Availability

$950,000 is available through this solicitation for award for agricultural land conservation planning projects at the local or regional level. Funds not awarded under this solicitation maybe allocated to subsequent solicitations for planning projects or Land Trust Capacity and Project Development solicitation consistent with applicable laws, regulations and policies.

Objectives

Consistent with the Objectives set forth in the Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program Guidelines (Guidelines), planning projects should achieve one or more of the following program objectives:
• Protect agricultural and working lands from conversion to more intensified uses
• Protect natural resources
• Support local governments achieving statewide objectives that
  o Reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions
  o Improve air and water quality
  o Promote public health
  o Increase infill and compact development
  o Revitalize urban and community centers
  o Reduce automobile usage and fuel consumption
  o Improve infrastructure systems
  o Promote water conservation
  o Promote energy efficiency and conservation

Natural and Working Lands Planning

While local governments and regional planning groups have developed or are in the process of developing plans and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, many have yet to include natural and working lands as part of their strategy. To optimize greenhouse gas reductions and public benefits across sectors, the Local and Regional Planning grants will support local and regional planner’s efforts to integrate natural and working lands, specifically agricultural lands, in their planning documents.

TerraCount

TerraCount is a scenario planning tool developed by the Department of Conservation and the Nature Conservancy for use by cities, counties, districts, and other land use planners and decision-makers. TerraCount models the greenhouse gas and natural resource implications of different development patterns and management activities. TerraCount allows planners to evaluate the application of management activities including agricultural activities such as cover cropping, restoration activities such as riparian restoration, and avoided conversion such as avoided conversion of grazed land to cultivated land or agricultural land to development. TerraCount provides reporting for how these activities affect a suite of co-benefits.

Contacts

For questions about this solicitation please contact the Department of Conservation Working Lands and Riparian Corridors team by email to CFCP@conservation.ca.gov.
Forecasting Reductions/Benefits: TerraCount Tool

INPUTS

- 2014 and 2030 landscape GHG data (baseline reference scenario)
- 2030 development footprints (reference, Merced preferred, max infill)
- Activities (e.g. activities like cover cropping, restoration activities like riparian restoration, avoided conversion, and urban tree planting)
- Co-benefits (i.e. suite of environmental benefits that fall into five categories: water, agriculture, human well-being, biodiversity, and resilience)
- User-defined conservation & User-defined development

GHG REDUCTION SCENARIO & COMPLEMENTARY BENEFITS ENGINE

- Selects locations for activities based on user input
- Calculates greenhouse gas reductions for activities
- Prevents conversion on user-defined conservation areas

OUTPUTS

- Landscape carbon total
- Landscape carbon by activity
- Complementary benefits total
- Complementary benefit by activity
Co-Benefits

Water
Habitat
Agriculture
Human Well Being
Resilience

Watershed Integrity
Groundwater Recharge
Ag/Urban Water Conservation
Water Quality

Terrestrial Connectivity
Terrestrial Habitat Value
Natural Habitat Area and Diversity
Priority Conservation Areas
Aquatic Biodiversity Value/Richness

Ag Land Quality
Crop Value

Flood Risk Reduction
Air Quality
Scenic Value

Connectivity for Climate Adaptation
Climate-change Refugia
Flood Risk Reduction
Groundwater Recharge Potential