RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2020-7

MEETING: January 7, 2020

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer

RE: Legislative Platform 2020

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve the County's 2020 Legislative Platform. The Legislative Platform is the County Board of Supervisor's declaration of issues and items that are of importance to the citizens of the County. By identifying priorities, the Platform helps guide this office and County departments in recommending legislative positions.

The Platform also provides the County Administrative Officer with direction as to the County's position in those instances when a timely response is necessary. This year's Platform emphasizes eight crucial issues including disaster mitigation, housing, infrastructure, ongoing support for public safety personnel and other ongoing concerns.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board annually develops and approves a legislative platform.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
The Board may wish to alter the proposed platform. Without an adopted platform the direction will be lacking to departments regarding the County's position on important legislative actions.

ATTACHMENTS:
2020 Legislative Platform (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
SECONDER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey
2020 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

MARIPOSA COUNTY

HOME OF YOSEMITE

District 1: Rosemarie Smallcombe
District 2: Merlin Jones
District 3: Marshall Long

District 4: Kevin Cann
District 5: Miles Menetrey
Mariposa County is a full-service local government with no incorporated cities. It is one of the original 27 counties and the proud home of Yosemite National Park.

1,463 SQ MI
TOTAL LAND AREA
Approximately half of the land area of the county is owned by the federal government. Less than one percent of the county land area has access to water and sewer utilities.

5 MILLION
ANNUAL VISITORS
Each year 4 - 5 million visitors come to Mariposa to visit Yosemite National Park. The County has 18,000 full-time residents.

$28.40
REVENUE PER PERSON
The County only receives about $28 annually for each person we serve including emergency response, roads, mental health, disaster recovery, housing, jails and recreation.
Maintain the County's ability to self-govern.

Move decisions closer to the people whenever possible.

Preserve the County's rural character and diverse natural resources.

Support the County's ability to finance and administer services. No unfunded mandates.

Invest in local infrastructure.

Assist small counties with higher per capita costs for service delivery.

Promote jobs, housing and enterprise.

Preserve funds for mental health services with added flexibility to meet local needs.

Address the need for housing at all income levels by eliminating over-regulation and securing resources for infrastructure.

Develop a long-term strategy to address forest management and insurance reform.

Secure funding for all mandated programs and minimize administrative burden.

Reauthorize Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS).

Support pro-tourism legislation.
Mariposa County has experienced eleven local emergencies in the past three years, including major floods and wildfires.

Mariposa County supports efforts to mitigate the frequency, scale and impact of disasters in California.

We support full funding of timely disaster relief for all eligible counties and oppose any changes, delays or limitations to the receipt of disaster reimbursements.

The County further supports efforts to expand State assistance for the local portion of costs of State- or federally-declared disasters.

Prescribed burning, strategic thinning of forests, reforestation and other practices that contribute to healthy forests should be enabled and encouraged.

The State should continue to petition the federal government to remove hazard trees on lands adjacent to communities.

We support allocating additional State funds for forest health, drought mitigation, water conservation and prevention of floods and tree mortality-related disasters.

We support actions to ensure property insurance will continue to be available at a fair rate for all California homeowners.
Mariposa County is appreciative of efforts to fund housing for the homeless and near homeless.

We support tailoring regulations and requirements to local conditions and the ability to delay or waive costly building code requirements that are not always applicable in rural areas.

We support rural county access to infrastructure funds for local improvements.

Incentives for housing at all income levels should be a priority for encouraging development.

Tax codes and financial industry regulations should be revised to provide stimulus for producing homes that are affordable for median and low-income households in particular.

Mariposa County supports State programs to finance and ensure housing projects are completed and made available in rural communities.

We support federal laws that broaden the opportunities for local housing finance authorities, non-profit housing entities, and local governments to increase home ownership.
Mental Health Services Act funds should remain with counties. Flexibility in the use of innovation funds is highly desirable.

The County recognizes and supports the continued reform of State and federal health and welfare entitlement programs.

Counties must have sufficient program flexibility to coordinate the delivery of services as cost-effectively as possible.

Local Child Support Enforcement Agencies should be funded at a level that will allow federal matching revenues to fully fund the agencies.

We support Congregate Care Reform that will improve and enhance services to foster youth.

We support legislation that will enhance local collaboration toward the goals of poverty and homeless reduction and capacity building for individuals, families, and communities.

We support the renewal of California's Federal Medicaid section 1115 waiver and legislative efforts that will enhance funding for Veterans' Services.

We support continued funding of the First 5 programs.
Mariposa County sees improving our local roads, water and sewer utilities, the safety and reliability of electric power and broadband availability and speed as vital to the success of our community.

We oppose legislation that withholds local transportation funds pending compliance with State-mandates or plans.

We support legislation providing equitable gasoline tax distribution to counties without incorporated cities and legislation recognizing local general fund participation in road funding, regardless of source, as self-help.

We oppose legislation that shifts taxation from fuel sales taxes, which are constitutionally guaranteed for local transportation, to excise taxes, which are not similarly protected.

We support legislation that would provide a means by which all vehicles, including electric vehicles (EV), would share equally in the appropriate road use taxes.

Mariposa County supports legislation that would allow for grants and other alternate revenue sources for small utilities and landfills. We support State efforts to maintain, repair or privatize systems, as appropriate for an individual community.
Mariposa County supports full restoration of Williamson Act subventions to encourage preservation of agricultural lands.

We support continued or enhanced funding of local Weed Management Areas, pest prevention and pesticide enforcement programs, marketing regulatory programs, effective wildlife management tools, and/or the preservation and enhancement of weights and measures programs.

The County is interested in legislation to increase the number of certified agricultural commissioners throughout the state and/or allow small counties to employ a lower level of certification as agricultural commissioner.

We support implementation of the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts that balances social and economic benefits with species protection and ensures that policies are based on scientific evidence.

We support the full implementation of Propositions 1 and 68, as well as other voter-approved funding measures that support these priorities.

We support revolving fund programs that provide a funding mechanism for compliance with Clean Water Act permit requirements, stormwater capture and flood protection services without diverting funds needed for other critical services.
Mariposa County relies on Cal Fire to lead our volunteer fire department and provide a guaranteed backup response year-round.

We support actions to provide resources to Cal Fire. We are particularly interested in the development of fire prevention strategies on a statewide level.

We support the use of grant funds to leverage partner resources and complete vital community safety projects. Grant funds should be able to be used together or as local match for California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) and other programs.

We support actions to build hardened homes.

We support protections for public safety personnel and resources for the tools that allow them to protect our communities.

We support funding to construct or rehabilitate local jails and full funding for County trial courts, juvenile probation and victim witness services.

We also support legislation and funding for supervision strategies and Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) that improve outcomes.

The County opposes legislation that would erode due process for individuals, including members of law enforcement, including premature disclosure.
State and federal governments should always consider the impact on jobs and the economy as they work within legislative and regulatory processes. Counties such as Mariposa are the first to see the negative impacts when this doesn’t occur.

We support State and federal incentives as a stimulus to job growth and locally-controlled economic development.

Mariposa County supports grants for recreation centers, parks, trails and other outdoor activities. We likewise support legislation to continue State funding assistance for community and cultural facilities like libraries and museums.

Fairgrounds are valuable to emergency operations, community organizations and events, local tourism and as a place where residents and visitors of all ages are able to engage with our heritage. We encourage the Legislature to restore funding to our fairgrounds. We support alternatives that would reduce State regulation and allow for greater county control of fairground operations.
Every year, millions of travelers come from around the world to enjoy the pristine beauty of Yosemite National Park and Mariposa County. In a rural county with less than 18,000 residents, many of the services we provide, including roads, emergency services, utility infrastructure, etc., are used as much or more by transients than residents.

Transient occupancy taxes allow the County to offset the huge demand for services generated by visitors with a matching revenue stream. More than half of Mariposa County general fund revenues are associated with transient occupancy taxes or tourism-related activities.

The County opposes any and all efforts to exempt or excuse any group of transients from paying their share for the services they use.

We oppose State control and/or collection of transient occupancy taxes, particularly with regard to online reservation platforms, which would result in a reduction of the County’s share of those taxes.

We support the continuing State effort to attract visitors to California and the Tourism Business Improvement Districts (TBIDs) that partner with the State to encourage travel to our region.