RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve an Agreement with Blue Ridge Services for Tree Mortality Mitigation and Forest Health Activities ($591,714.39); and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Agreement.

The Mariposa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) recently received two large grants for forest health projects. Of the $3.4 million awarded, $591,714 has been designated for cleanup of trees that were felled but not removed as part of the County’s tree mortality mitigation efforts. There is no local match required to complete this work.

This agreement provides capacity and expertise to complete the assigned tasks in the most efficient and effective manner. Blue Ridge Services has managed tree mortality operations to this point and is uniquely qualified to complete this project. Staff recommends approval of the agreement.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board of Supervisors declared a State of Emergency related to tree mortality with Resolution 2015-446 and has regularly renewed this action.

The Board approved an agreement with Blue Ridge Services, Inc. for tree mortality operations management services on February 7, 2017. As opportunities to expand the scope of the project have arisen, the Board has since amended the agreement with Blue Ridge Services on four separate occasions, with the last amendment occurring on June 25, 2019, for a total not-to-exceed amount of $5,500,000. Only up to $140,000 of the final payment amount will come from the County General Fund. At completion, this effort is anticipated to have felled nearly 10,000 hazardous trees in Mariposa County.

Early in the tree mortality mitigation project, when costs were higher and resources were fewer, the County only anticipated mitigating the most hazardous 15% of affected pine trees. To mitigate as much risk to public infrastructure as possible, resources were focused on felling hazardous trees that were then left on site. As prices fell and additional state resources were secured, the scope was expanded to include felling and
removal of 100% of trees of any species that threatened public infrastructure when owner approval could be obtained.

The Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Mariposa County Resource Conservation District for use of applicable grant funds with Resolution 2019-476 on August 13, 2019.

**ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**
Do not approve. Logs that were felled previously will be left on site. RCD will work with their grantors to reallocate funds to other projects and the County may have a difficult time getting funds through RCD in the future.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**
This agreement will be entirely funded by the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District.

**ATTACHMENTS:**
Blue Ridge Forest Health Agreement-Updated (DOCX)

**RESULT:** ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

**MOVER:** Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

**SECONDER:** Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

**AYES:** Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey