RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2020-103

MEETING:    March 10, 2020
TO:         The Board of Supervisors
FROM:       Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer
RE:         Letter Requesting Funding Support for Mariposa County Programs

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve a Letter Requesting Funding Support for Various Mariposa County Programs; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors to Sign.

Congress considers Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 federal funding levels through the annual appropriations process, we are requesting support for funding for the following programs that reflect the priorities of the County of Mariposa and its residents:
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program
- Homelessness Programs
- Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)
- Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS)
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
- National Park Service (NPS) Maintenance Backlog
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
- Wildfire Programs
- Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program
- FEMA Disaster Relief
- FEMA Firefighters Grants
- Department of Interior’s (DOI) Wildfire Management Efforts
- Economic Development Administration (EDA)

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has routinely approved letters for issues that they believe will benefit the citizens of Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
If the Board does not approve the letter, it will not be submitted. Individual Board members may write their own letters at that time, which may not carry the same weight as a letter from the entire Board.
Resolution - Action Requested 2020-103

ATTACHMENTS:
FY21 Federal Appropriations Letter_Mariposa County_Feinstein (DOCX)
FY21 Federal Appropriations Letter_Mariposa County_McClintock (DOCX)
FY21 Federal Appropriations Letter_Mariposa County_Harris (DOCX)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
SECONDER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey
March 10, 2020

The Honorable Tom McClintock
United States House of Representatives
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McClintock,

As Congress considers Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 federal funding levels through the annual appropriations process, we respectfully request your support for funding for the following programs that reflect the priorities of the County of Mariposa and its residents.

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program:** This program provides grants to the County and more than 1,200 other local governments to create neighborhood approaches that improve the physical, economic and social conditions in communities for low- and moderate-income residents. Throughout the program’s history, communities have leveraged CDBG to fund a variety of activities including housing rehabilitation, business assistance, senior services, and infrastructure. Every $1 of CDBG leverages another $4 in other funding, bringing additional vital resources to low-income communities. Maintaining or increasing funding for CDBG is critical to the program’s continued success.

- **Homelessness Programs:** For families who have nowhere else to turn, the federal government has provided a safety net to help them avoid homelessness. Especially since the rate of homeless children and youth has increased in recent years, it is especially critical that we maintain and increase funding for homelessness programs. The County supports robust funding for Homeless Assistance Grants in FY 2021.

- **Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program:** The STBG program provides flexible funding that may be used by States and localities for projects to preserve and
improve the conditions and performance on any Federal-aid highway, bridge and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects. The STBG program supports such critical initiatives as the Recreational Trails Program, Transportation Alternatives Program, and the Highway Bridge Program. The County urges Congress to appropriate at least level funding for the STBG program in FY 2021.

- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):** LWCF is an essential part of our nation’s efforts to help state and local governments acquire, develop, and plan public outdoor areas in the United States. Since 1965, LWCF has supported park lands and recreation facilities by providing nearly $4 billion through nearly 42,000 grants to state and local governments through its state assistance program. If any cuts were to be implemented, the consequences for public lands, parks, and other recreation areas would be catastrophic. The County supports continued funding for LWCF state assistance grants in FY 2021.

- **Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT):** The PILT program provides compensation to local governments for the costs associated with maintaining infrastructure on federal lands within their boundaries. These payments help local governments carry out such vital services as firefighting and police protection, and construction of public schools and roads. The County urges Congress to appropriate at least level funding in FY 2021.

- **Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS):** The SRS program provides important financial assistance to rural counties and school districts affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal land. These funds help support critical services including infrastructure investment, conservation projects, and fire prevention programs. The County supports robust funding for the SRS program in FY 2021.

- **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF):** CWSRF supports state programs that provide low interest loans for water infrastructure projects, including constructing wastewater facilities, controlling pollution runoff, and protecting estuaries. This financial assistance program is critical to achieving the goals of the Clean Water Act. The County supports at least level funding for CWSRF in FY 2021.

- **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF):** DWSRF provides financial assistance to projects that ensure all communities have safe drinking water. These projects include enhancing water treatment, repairing pipes, and fixing water storage tanks. The County urges Congress to appropriate at least level funding for DWSRF in FY 2021.

- **National Park Service (NPS) Maintenance Backlog:** The NPS has nearly $12 billion worth of deferred maintenance, which undermines the ability to preserve our national parks for current and future generations of Americans. To address this maintenance backlog
and repair damage to our national parks during the partial government shutdown, the County supports robust funding in FY 2021 to address the NPS maintenance backlog.

- **Army Corps of Engineers**

- **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS):** The Department of Justice’s COPS Office has provided much needed resources to local law enforcement agencies across the nation. The COPS hiring program, the Office’s largest discretionary grant program, offers financial assistance to hire and rehire entry-level career law enforcement officers in order to increase community policing capacities and preserve jobs. The discretionary grants awarded by the COPS Office have significantly enhanced public safety and advanced proven community policing practices. The County urges Congress appropriate at least level funding for this critical public safety program in FY 2021.

- **Wildfire Programs:** In recent years, California has faced some of the most dire fire seasons in the State’s history. With the possibility of drought returning to California, it is critical that Congress invest in programs that prepare for wildfires and help mitigate fire risks. This includes the following programs:
  
  - **Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program:** This grant program reduces risk to people and structures during future disaster events. As the entire State of California continues to face heightened risk for wildfires, earthquakes, mudslides, and other natural disasters, the County supports at least level funding for this program in FY 2021.
  
  - **FEMA Disaster Relief:** FEMA provides federal assistance to supplement state and local disaster response and recovery efforts to address the needs of affected communities in the short, medium, and long term. Such assistance also includes FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which helps communities that have experienced a major disaster mitigate the risk of a future disaster. The County supports robust funding for disaster relief programs in FY 2021.
  
  - **FEMA Firefighters Grants:** The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program and the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) (which includes the Fire Protection and Safety (FP&S) grant program) help ensure the preparedness of public safety organizations and officials across the country. The County believes maintaining at least level funding for each program is critical to these programs’ continued success.
  
  - **Department of Interior’s (DOI) Wildfire Management Efforts:** DOI’s wildfire programs respond to fires on federal lands as well as support fire prevention, readiness, fuels management, post-fire rehabilitation, facilities, and fire science and research. The County supports at least level funding for DOI’s wildfire programs in FY 2021.
• Economic Development Administration (EDA): Many communities face obstacles to innovation, since systems are set up to support organizations and businesses that operate within the status quo. In funding projects that maximize communities’ skill sets and natural talents, the EDA promotes responsible business practices and gives the United States a comparative advantage in the global marketplace. The County supports robust funding for the EDA in FY 2021.

We appreciate the challenges that you and your colleagues face in setting appropriations levels across a multitude of worthy programs and are grateful for your efforts to preserve funding for important programs in a challenging fiscal climate.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the County’s views.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Smallcombe
Supervisor, District I

Merlin Jones
Supervisor, District II

Marshall Long
Supervisor, District III

Kevin Cann
Supervisor, District IV

Miles Menetrey
Supervisor, District V

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
    Senator Kamala Harris
March 10, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

As Congress considers Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 federal funding levels through the annual appropriations process, we respectfully request your support for funding for the following programs that reflect the priorities of the County of Mariposa and its residents.

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program**: This program provides grants to the County and more than 1,200 other local governments to create neighborhood approaches that improve the physical, economic and social conditions in communities for low- and moderate-income residents. Throughout the program’s history, communities have leveraged CDBG to fund a variety of activities including housing rehabilitation, business assistance, senior services, and infrastructure. Every $1 of CDBG leverages another $4 in other funding, bringing additional vital resources to low-income communities. Maintaining or increasing funding for CDBG is critical to the program’s continued success.

- **Homelessness Programs**: For families who have nowhere else to turn, the federal government has provided a safety net to help them avoid homelessness. Especially since the rate of homeless children and youth has increased in recent years, it is especially critical that we maintain and increase funding for homelessness programs. The County supports robust funding for Homeless Assistance Grants in FY 2021.

- **Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program**: The STBG program provides flexible funding that may be used by States and localities for projects to preserve and
improve the conditions and performance on any Federal-aid highway, bridge and tunnel projects on any public road, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects. The STBG program supports such critical initiatives as the Recreational Trails Program, Transportation Alternatives Program, and the Highway Bridge Program. The County urges Congress to appropriate at least level funding for the STBG program in FY 2021.

- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):** LWCF is an essential part of our nation’s efforts to help state and local governments acquire, develop, and plan public outdoor areas in the United States. Since 1965, LWCF has supported park lands and recreation facilities by providing nearly $4 billion through nearly 42,000 grants to state and local governments through its state assistance program. If any cuts were to be implemented, the consequences for public lands, parks, and other recreation areas would be catastrophic. The County supports continued funding for LWCF state assistance grants in FY 2021.

- **Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT):** The PILT program provides compensation to local governments for the costs associated with maintaining infrastructure on federal lands within their boundaries. These payments help local governments carry out such vital services as firefighting and police protection, and construction of public schools and roads. The County urges Congress to appropriate at least level funding in FY 2021.

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and repair damage to our national parks during the partial government shutdown, the County supports robust funding in FY 2021 to address the NPS maintenance backlog.

- **Army Corps of Engineers**: The Army Corps of Engineers provides engineering and technical services in an environmentally sustainable, economic, and technically sound manner with a focus on public safety and collaborative partnerships. Funds allocated to the Corps create opportunities to strengthen the nation’s security by building and maintaining America’s infrastructure through the restoration, protection, and management of aquatic ecosystems, flood risk management, and support of commercial navigation. The County urges Congress to appropriate at least level funding in FY 2021.

- **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)**: The Department of Justice’s COPS Office has provided much needed resources to local law enforcement agencies across the nation. The COPS hiring program, the Office’s largest discretionary grant program, offers financial assistance to hire and rehire entry-level career law enforcement officers in order to increase community policing capacities and preserve jobs. The discretionary grants awarded by the COPS Office have significantly enhanced public safety and advanced proven community policing practices. The County urges Congress appropriate at least level funding for this critical public safety program in FY 2021.

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Thank you for your time and consideration of the County’s views.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Smallcombe  
Supervisor, District I

Marshall Long  
Supervisor, District III

Miles Menetrey  
Supervisor, District V

Merlin Jones  
Supervisor, District II

Kevin Cann  
Supervisor, District IV

cc: Senator Kamala Harris  
Representative Tom McClintock
March 10, 2020

The Honorable Kamala Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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