RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2020-168

MEETING: April 7, 2020
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor
RE: Ratify Letter of Support for YNP Closure

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Ratify a Letter of Support endorsing the Health Officer’s recommendation that Yosemite National Park be closed to visitors.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
Major California cities are shut down with direction to shelter in place at home due to outbreaks of COVID-19. It is illogical to invite those folks to leave their homes and congregate in Yosemite until the situation stabilizes.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not ratify the letter, and direct staff to draft a letter withdrawing the letter of support.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
No financial impact

ATTACHMENTS:
Letter to YNP Superintendent endorsing YNP shut closure (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey
March 19, 2020

Superintendent
Yosemite National Park
P O Box 577
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

Dear Ms. Muldoon,

Mariposa County is one of the most tourist dependent counties in the United States. Yosemite National Park is the economic engine for all the gateway communities. In consideration of public health and our extremely limited medical capabilities, as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors I must fully endorse the Health Officer’s recommendation that Yosemite National Park be closed to visitors.

Many of California’s major cities are in complete shut down due to outbreaks of COVID-19. It is illogical to invite those folks to leave their homes and congregate in Yosemite. We greatly value each and every visitor to our area. We look forward to welcoming everyone back as soon as the state’s COVID-19 situation stabilizes.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cann, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors