RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2020-63

MEETING: February 4, 2020

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer

RE: Joint Resolution Forming a Local Coalition for Fire Preparedness

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Adopt a Resolution Forming a Regional Coalition to Address Fire Preparedness, Forest Health and Community Resilience.

Wildfire is a part of life in the Sierra foothills. In recent years, its effect has been more dramatic. Insurance providers have taken notice, but they are only one part of a much larger challenge. There is too much fuel in our forests; and a need to replant some areas that have already burned. We know about defensible space; we need more defensible communities. We can address certain hazards; but those mitigations won't mean much without similar mitigation on federal and private land. As wildfires become more devastating across the state, rural mountain counties will have to do more to deal with this aspect of life in the wildland urban interface.

Mariposa County doesn't have the resources to do all of the things that could and perhaps should be done to be ready for the next fire, promote forest health and enhance local resilience. We are lobbying for policies and funding to support these worthy objectives, but our voice is not always heard. We are making efforts toward stronger partnerships with the relevant state and federal agencies, but small county issues do not always find their way onto the radar screens of those larger entities.

County administrative officers and no more than two supervisors from the Counties of Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Mariposa and Tuolumne have discussed forming a regional coalition in order to speak with a louder voice on the important issues outlined here and be as effective as possible in implementing needed solutions. The state tree mortality task force, Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) and the governor's office have also been involved with each conversation.

This coalition would provide an opportunity to bring awareness to our issues across the state, lobby together for needed resources, and leverage our shared size for better solutions to the problems we all face. At least one county, Tuolumne, has also proclaimed a state of emergency to put an exclamation on the need for action.
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Collaborative action is encouraged in the County strategic plan and the issues identified are within the scope of the County’s legislative platform. Accordingly, staff is recommending approval of this joint resolution and committed, if approved, to working with our partner counties to find solutions for the benefit of our communities.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board of Supervisors has agreed on many occasions to work with neighboring or partner jurisdictions toward shared solutions. Examples include, but are not limited to, the Central Sierra Economic District, the Yosemite Area Rapid Transit System, the Calaveras-Mariposa Community Action Agency, and joint action that was taken to secure resources for tree mortality response.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not approve. Mariposa County will not participate in the coalition and may not receive the benefits of that collaboration.

ATTACHMENTS:
Regional Coalition Joint Resolution 2020  (DOCX)

RESULT:   ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:    Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
SECONDER: Miles Menetrey, District V Supervisor
AYES:     Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey