RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2020-246

MEETING: May 19, 2020

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor

RE: Letters of Support for RCD for Grant Application

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve a Letter of Support of Mariposa County Resource Conservation District’s Wildfire Resilience and Forestry Assistance Grant Application for fuel reduction on Highway 49 South; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter.

The Mariposa County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) is submitting an application for a $2.2 million CAL FIRE Grant to reduce fuels on Highway 49 South, from the intersection of Hwy 140 South to the Madera County line. This project was called out in the Strategic Plan of CAL FIRE Madera-Mariposa-Merced unit and, when completed, will add an additional tool in the fight against wildfires in the area. Traffic control will be provided by Caltrans as a no-cost match.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has approved other letters in support of grant applications for the MCRCD, as well as other local entities or residents.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not approve the letter. Individual members of the Board may write their own letters of support as desired.

ATTACHMENTS:
RCD Grant Application Support Letter (DOCX)
Mariposa County Defensible Roadways (PDF)
Project Graphic (PDF)
MPA Defensible Roadway Coop Ltr Draft 5-13-2020 (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
SECONDER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetre
May 19, 2020

Stewart McMorrow  
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Grants Management Unit  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Dear Mr. McMorrow:

RE: Wildfire Resilience and Forestry Assistance Grant  
Mariposa County Defensible Roadways Project Support Letter

This letter is to affirm that Mariposa County is a cooperating partner in the Mariposa County Defensible Roadways project grant application submitted by the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District. This project is part of the larger strategic effort to create defensible space and enhanced emergency evacuation routes throughout the Sierra Nevada, and aligns with the priorities and objectives of Mariposa County to reduce the risk of wildfire and protect communities, and ensure accessible emergency evacuation routes.

Mariposa County is pleased to support this application and will assist the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District in reaching out to the public with information about the importance and benefits of this project. Enhancing evacuation routes and providing defensible spaces are high priorities of the Board of Supervisors and we will use our resources to assist with communicating this effort.

This collaborative project also protects residents of several rural disadvantaged communities and includes public and private land owners in enhancing wildfire resilience and sound forestry practices. We value the collaborative effort and anticipate that this project could serve as a model for future joint projects that would provide increased wildfire resilience, enhance public safety by defending emergency evacuation routes, and reduce the impacts of wildfire on communities throughout the State.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cann  
Board Chair