RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2020-357

MEETING: June 23, 2020

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Sarah Williams, Planning Director

RE: Letter of Agreement with USFWS and SFC for Mariposa Creek Parkway Restoration

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve a Letter of Agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to Enable the Sierra Foothill Conservancy to Conduct Habitat Restoration Activities on the Mariposa Creek Parkway; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter of Agreement.

Sierra Foothill Conservancy (SFC) has secured a grant from US Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) to conduct riparian habitat restoration activities, including invasive species removal and native landscape revegetation in critical habitat areas within Mariposa County. One such area is the Phase II segment of the Mariposa Creek Parkway, located north of Stroming Road and roughly between 6th and 8th Streets along both sides of Mariposa Creek. This land is owned by Mariposa County.

This letter of agreement, provided by USFWS, authorizes SFC to conduct riparian habitat restoration activities on this segment of county-owned land. In addition to the restoration activities mentioned above, this grant could be used to support implementation of the Xerces Society grant, recently awarded to a partnership between Mariposa County Resource Conservation District and the Planning Department, which will provide native pollinator plants to enhance the habitat benefits of this critical riparian area. It could also be used to support cultural burning activities, including pre-burn site preparation and/or post-burn vegetation removal and clean-up activities.

For this project, the standard USFWS agreement has been amended to ensure that this project does not preclude the County or any other group from implementing the Mariposa Creek Parkway Master Plan, which calls for active transportation and recreational benefits in the habitat restoration area.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board and LTC have taken a number of actions related to establishing the
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Mariposa Creek Parkway and restoring environmental conditions within the project alignment, including:

Pollinator Habitat Enhancement: RES No. 2020-18
Mariposa Creek Parkway Master Plan Adoption: LTC No. 2020-3
Mariposa Creek Parkway/Statewide Parks Program: LTC No. 2019-13
Noxious Weed Grant Program: RES No. 2019-20
Mariposa Creek Parkway Phase III Concept Plan Adoption: LTC No. 2017-14

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Negative action will result in the inability of SFC to use the current grant to conduct habitat restoration activities in this segment of the Mariposa Creek corridor.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
None

ATTACHMENTS:
200616 Partners LOA Mariposa County (PDF)

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