RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2020-393

MEETING: July 14, 2020

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor

RE: Letter of Support for MCRCD Grant Proposal

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve a Letter of Support for the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) for submittal of their Protecting Sequoias and Communities Proposal to the Wildlife Conservation Board for the Forest Conservation Grant Program; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to sign the letter (Board Chair).

The Mariposa County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) has requested a letter of support from the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors to include in their grant package to the Wildlife Conservation Board for the Forest Conservation Grant Program.

Please see the letter from the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District for additional information.

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

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not approve the letter. Individual Board members may write their own letters of support for the grant application which may not carry the weight of a letter from the entire Board.

ATTACHMENTS:
WCB_Protecting Giant Sequoias and Communities 5.7 (PDF)
Letter of Support (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
SECONDER: Miles Menetrey, District V Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey
July 14, 2020

Wildlife Conservation Board
Judah Grossman
P.O. Box 9444209
Sacramento, CA 94244

Dear WCB staff and Board members:

Mariposa County is pleased to support Mariposa County Resource Conservation District's Protecting Sequoias and Communities proposal to your Forest Conservation grant program.

The western slope of the Sierra Nevada are at significant, unprecedented risk for large scale wildfires that will destroy iconic giant sequoias, endanger wildlife dependent upon forest habitat, and threaten human lives and communities. The 2018 Ferguson Fire burned over 100,000 acres in Mariposa County including portions of Yosemite National Park and the community of Yosemite-West. This project is needed to assist with forest and habitat recovery as well as to provide protection from future fires.

Not only is this funding needed to restore burned areas, spending WCB grant funds to restore forest health and protect habitat will benefit and preserve Yosemite National Park which is a major portion of our local economy providing jobs for many local residents.

Removal of fire damaged hazard trees and thinning of ladder fuels will save money over time by proactively reducing the potential for high severity wildfire events, protecting wildlife and their critical habitat, and increasing protection to visitors and residents alike.

Last, as noted in the grant proposal, this project provides one of the most high-profile opportunities for Park and other land agency staffs to promote the positive aspects of proactive fuel reduction treatments. The work would allow employment opportunities for youth and local tribal members. And unlike many proposed projects, this proposal includes a clearly defined strategy of monitoring to assess the effects on an endangered species, to monitor hydrologic aspects of the affected landscape, and to acquire monitoring data on the response of giant sequoias to fire and drought.

We hope you will fund this important project as a way to meet the shared goals of WCB, Mariposa County and Yosemite National Park.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cann, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors