RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2020-451

MEETING: July 28, 2020

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Pete Judy, Chief Probation Officer

RE: Amendment to MOU with Tuolumne County and Mariposa County for Youth in Need of Detention

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Tuolumne for the Placement and Detention of Mariposa Youth at the Motherlode Regional Detention Facility (MRDF); and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Amendment.

Mariposa County has had an MOU with the MRDF since August 23, 2017 to provide detention and rehabilitative services and programs for Mariposa youth who have committed crimes and are detained by the Court. The facility provides services for the youth of the Sierra Nevada Counties including Amador, Calaveras, and Inyo County. The program has received state wide recognition for its ability to protect the community while offering services that are evidenced based and proven to successfully return youth back to their families and for them to remain law abiding.

The facility was originally built with grant funds from the state and came on line in 2017. The population of youth needing detention across the state has dropped steadily through the years. Coupled with this year’s extra ordinary budget challenges, the Tuolumne Board of Supervisors has seriously considered closing the facility this coming fiscal year 20-21.

Recognizing the importance the services the facility provides to the youth of Mariposa County it is recommended that a portion of our state funding for Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act Block Grant be dedicated to assisting to keep the facility available for our youth and their families. This addendum will assist the MRDF to remain operational and guarantee that beds remain available for Mariposa youth. Calaveras and Amador have also committed to increasing their financial support.

Additionally the Governor is proposing that on July 1, 2021, the state will no longer accept commitments to the Department of Juvenile Justice. Counties will no longer be able to send youth to the state for rehabilitative programs. It is anticipated that many of the current empty beds in juvenile facilities across the state will be needed to detain these more serious youthful offenders.
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Having a facility close to Mariposa with youth that have similar needs to our youth, is a benefit to Mariposa County now and in the future. It is in our best interests that the facility remain in operation and available as a local rehabilitation option for our youth.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The BOS has been supportive of keeping Mariposa youth that need to be detained as close to our community and their families as possible.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
There will be no impact to the general fund. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act funds will be used.

ATTACHMENTS:
MLRJDF Placement MOU-Mariposa Co. 2017 (PDF)

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