RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2020-561

MEETING: September 15, 2020

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Sarah Williams, Planning Director

RE: Detwiler Fire Disaster Time Extension for Displaced Residents

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Extend the Authority for Detwiler Fire Disaster Displaced Residents to Occupy Temporary Replacement Housing (Recreational Vehicles) for Six (6) Months (until July 18, 2021) Pursuant to Mariposa County Code Sections 18.05.020 and 18.05.040.

Based on the work of the Detwiler Fire Task Force, the additional time is needed to pursue potential solutions for residents displaced by the Detwiler Fire who are still occupying RVs.

County Code Chapter 18.05 establishes policies and regulations allowing displaced residents to occupy temporary replacement housing (recreational vehicles or RVs), either on-site or off-site, for a limited period of time following a declared disaster. The temporary replacement housing is intended to be used while the displaced resident addresses insurance issues, obtains financing and permits, and repairs or permanently replaces their damaged home(s). The code allows temporary replacement housing for an initial time period of two (2) years, which ended on July 18, 2019. Based on recent ordinance amendments (Ordinance No. 1153), the Board is given the authority to grant extensions of up to two (2) additional years (four [4] years total time, including the initial time period). The extensions may be granted in six (6) month increments. A one (1) year extension was granted by the Board of Supervisors via Resolution No. 2019-414 on July 16, 2019. A six (6) month time extension was granted by the Board of Supervisors via Resolution No. 2020-412 on July 14, 2020. Only six (6) months extension is possible now, based on county code. This action, if taken as recommended, will be the last time extension possible based on county code.

According to Building Permit records, there were a total of eight (8) individuals or families who benefited from these code provisions and obtained permits for temporary replacement housing (RVs). Two have found or completed permanent replacement housing as of this date and one has sold their property; there are still five (5) individuals or families who occupy temporary replacement housing who would benefit from this official determination.

During this extension period, a task force of staff from the Planning Department, Building Department, the County’s Health and Human Services Agency and the
Resolution - Action Requested 2020-561

County’s Housing Development Specialist will continue working diligently to assist victims to understand and pursue options for permanent replacement housing.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

**July 16, 2017:** Detwiler Fire started.

**July 18, 2017:** County declared Local Disaster for the Detwiler Fire.

**July 25, 2017:** Board adopted Resolution ratifying the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency due to the Detwiler Fire and adopted a resolution ratifying the local health emergency declaration by the County Health Officer.

**August 8, 2017:** Board adopted Ordinance 1126, a 45-day interim urgency ordinance establishing a new Mariposa County Code Chapter 18.05 for Post Disaster Recovery. Code provisions established allowances for disaster victims to legally occupy temporary replacement housing (recreational vehicles) for two years following the disaster declaration.

**September 12, 2017:** Board adopted Ordinance 1128 extending for 10 months and 15 days, Ordinance 1126 (the interim urgency ordinance).

**July 10, 2018:** Board adopted Ordinance 1133 permanently adding Chapter 18.05 for Post Disaster Recovery to County Code.

**July 16, 2019:** Board adopted Resolution No. 19-414, granting a one (1) year extension for the Displaced Residents to occupy their RVs.

**June 9, 2020:** Board adopted Ordinance No. 1153, to provide one (1) additional year of recovery time (for a maximum of four [4] years following the disaster). Amendments also clarified Definitions.

**July 14, 2020:** Board adopted Resolution No. 20-412, granting a six (6) month extension for the Displaced Residents to occupy their RVs.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not grant time extension. Residents who lost their homes as a result of the Detwiler Fire would no longer be eligible to legally occupy temporary replacement housing (recreational vehicles) after January 18, 2021.

ATTACHMENTS:
Ordinance 1133 Post Disaster Recovery  (PDF)
Ordinance 1153 Extending Time Frame  (PDF)
RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2020-561

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