MEETING: May 11, 2021

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

RE: Letter of Support for MRCD Grant Regional Home Hardening Public Education Program Grant 20-FP-MMU-00

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve a Letter of Support for a Grant Application Submitted by the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) for a Regional Home Hardening Public Education Program Grant 20-FP-MMU-002; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter (Board Chair).

Mariposa County Resource Conservation District has requested a Letter of Support from the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors to include in their Grant Package. MCRCD will be working with Tuolumne, Amador and Calaveras County Resource Conservation Districts.

If Grant is approved the Resource Conservation Districts will be able to customize the Home Hardening booklet prepared by the Tahoe RCD; add an onsite Technical Assistance Program developed by Tuolumne RCD; and possibly add rebates or cost sharing in the future to assist people in upgrading their homes to withstand wildfire.

This project is related to a recommendation in the 2021 CWPP: Action Plan Item #11: Initiate local home retrofit 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:
RESULT:  ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:  Wayne Forsythe, District IV Supervisor
SECONDER:  Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
AYES:  Rosemarie Smallcombe, Marshall Long, Wayne Forsythe, Miles Menetrey
EXCUSED:  Tom Sweeney
May 11, 2021

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

Dear Grant Manager:

RE: 20-FP-MMU-0002
Regional Home Hardening Public Education Program

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors fully supports the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District application for a Regional Home Hardening Public Education program. This project is one of the recommendations of Mariposa County’s newly updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan and will go a long way toward raising public awareness about the need to harden homes in the WUI against wildfire.

State, federal and local agencies have been working hard to reduce fuels and improve the health and resilience of our forests. Residents have removed thousands of hazard trees and reduced tons of fuels within their defensible space, but the last piece of the puzzle is retrofitting homes within the wildland urban interface to withstand ember-driven fire. Retrofitting can be a complicated and potentially expensive process, and residents will appreciate clear information about how to achieve it. This program would be well received and provide additional incentive for homeowners to take on hardening projects and activities.

This application, submitted by Mariposa County RCD but representing a collaboration with Amador and Tuolumne county RCDs, and building upon the program created by the Tahoe RCD using CAL FIRE grant funding, will provide consistent, factual information informing residents about steps they can take to decrease the likelihood of losing their home to wildfire.

This project will increase public awareness and public safety, and provide additional protection against devasting loss during wildfires. Please fund the Regional Home Hardening Education program.

Thank you,

Name
Title