RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-259

MEETING: May 11, 2021

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

RE: Letter of Support for FSC Grant Application Brush and Chip 20-FP-MMU-0063

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RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Letter of Support for a Grant Application Submitted by the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council (FSC) for Mariposa Countywide Brush and Chip 20-FP-MMU-0063; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter (Board Chair).

Mariposa County Fire Safe Council has requested a Letter of Support from the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors to include in their Grant Package.

The Chipping component of the Brush and Chip program is a significant support in the county effort to reduce Green House Gas emissions. Every pile chipped is a pile not burned. The chips remain on site to add to soil health and weed suppression, which increase landscape resiliency.

Please see the letter from the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council 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:

Mariposa Countywide Brush and Chip 20-FP-MMU-0063 (PDF)
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 Menetrej
EXCUSED: Tom Sweeney
May 11, 2021

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Fire Prevention Grants Program
P. O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Re: Letter of Support for 20-FP-MMU-0063 – Mariposa Countywide Brush and Chip

To Whom It May Concern:

The Mariposa Board of Supervisors are pleased to support 20-FP-MMU-0063 for the Mariposa Countywide Brush and Chip program submitted by the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council, Inc.

The 2021 Mariposa Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) discusses Fire Adapted Communities, placing a strong emphasis on defensible space fuel removal as a high priority for safety of the WUI homes in Mariposa County. The Mariposa County Fire Safe Council has a fantastic track record of implementing an efficient and effective brushing and chipping program countywide. We would like to see this essential program continue. Without it, many low-income residents will not be able to meet the PRC 4291 requirements, placing them, and their neighbors, at greater risk of loss and potential death in a wildfire scenario. Not being able to clear around homes and routes of ingress/egress also puts fire fighters and first responders in harm’s way when they attempt to evacuate the community.

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The Brush and Chip grant has been recommended for support to the Board of Supervisors by the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Council (MCFAC). The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors established MCFAC as a multi-stakeholder group engaging a holistic approach in considering and making recommendations on important topics such as pre-fire coordination, fire prevention education, fire risk reduction and resource resiliency to both the County Fire Chief and Board of Supervisors. The MCFAC was formed to improve strategic planning and cooperation around wildfire needs for Mariposa County. We are comprised of state, federal, and county agencies as well as non-governmental organizations dedicated to improving our
collective capacity to deal with emerging and urgent wildfire threats to our county’s communities. The Brushing and Chipping program is endorsed and fully supported by the MCFAC collaborative.

We urge you to award a Fire Prevention grant to the Mariposa Fire Safe Council to implement the Mariposa Countywide Brush and Chip Program.

Sincerely,

Marshall Long,
Board Chair