MEETING: May 18, 2021

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Sarah Williams, Planning Director

RE: Climate Action Corps Fellows Application

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Ratify the Submittal of an Application to Climate Action Corps Fellows Program; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Grant Agreement If Awarded (Subject to Approval as to Legal Form by County Counsel).

The Climate Action Corps Fellowship program helps local communities implement climate actions that are designed to engage community members, empower change, and leave a lasting impact. Selected Fellows spend 11 months supporting community climate action projects through CivicSpark, a program of the Local Government Commission (LGC) implemented in partnership with California Volunteers. If selected, Mariposa County would receive the services of a recent college graduate whose skills match our stated climate action needs to work for the Planning Department for the term of the program. Because salary and health insurance costs are borne by the program, there would be no direct costs to the County for this additional employee.

The priority tasks proposed for the Fellow would be facilitating implementation of 1) key elements of the recently adopted Mariposa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and 2) the Mariposa Creek Restoration project, currently underway in the Phase II and Phase III segments of the Mariposa Creek Parkway. Depending on Fellow's skills and capacity, additional work on the Integrated Mobility and Housing Strategy and Terracount projects could be recommended as well.

Staff was not able to get an item on the Board's agenda in time to obtain approval for the submittal, prior to the application deadline.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

On March 9, 2021, the Board provided direction on the adoption of the CWPP.

On April 6, 2021, the Board passed Resolution 2021-172, signing an agreement with the Sierra Foothills Conservancy to be the County's prime consultant on the Mariposa Creek Parkway restoration project.

REF ID# 11776
ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION: Alternatives to this opportunity involve allocating additional funds to the Planning Department to hire a new employee.

Failure to approve this application would delay implementation of the CWPP and Mariposa Creek Parkway restoration project.

ATTACHMENTS:
210507 Climate Action Corps Host Partner Application UPDATED (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Wayne Forsythe, District IV Supervisor
SECONDER: Tom Sweeney, District II Supervisors
AYES: Smallcombe, Sweeney, Long, Forsythe, Menetrey