RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-406

MEETING: July 13, 2021

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer

RE: Appoint Monica Nielsen as the Ag Commissioner/Sealer

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Appoint Monica Nielsen as the Mariposa County Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures at an annual salary of $113,500.73, effective immediately.

The Agricultural Commissioner’s Department is responsible for several vital County functions including monitoring, maintaining, and enforcing standards for agricultural plant health, weed prevention and management, pest prevention, animal health, food safety, and measurement standards. The Agricultural Commissioner position is one of a small handful mandated by state code and held to strict state licensing requirements.

In December of 2016, the former Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures retired from Mariposa County after over 37 years of service. Since then, the County has conducted two recruitments to fill the vacancy, and this effort continued into the spring of this year with limited success. At the same time the County also pursued other options including the possibility of contracting with an adjoining jurisdiction for the required licensing and coverage, and in June of 2018 entered into such an agreement with Merced County, which has recently concluded.

Monica is a current Mariposa County employee and has worked in the Agricultural Commissioner’s Department since May 1, 2014. During the past seven years, Monica has achieved additional licenses and promoted through the ranks in the department. Monica has recently accomplished the goal of attaining her County Agricultural Commissioner license and her County Sealer of Weights and Measures license from the State of California Department of Food and Agriculture. Both of these licenses are required for the position of Mariposa County Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
On June 12, 2018, the Board of Supervisors approved an Agreement with Merced
County for agricultural and sealer of weights and measures services.

**ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**
Do not make the appointment and pursue an agreement with another jurisdiction for these services, or direct staff to continue recruiting to fill the vacant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures position.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**
Appropriate funds are included in the Ag Commissioner budget for FY 2021-22.

**RESULT:** ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

**MOVER:** Wayne Forsythe, District IV Supervisor

**SECONDER:** Tom Sweeney, District II Supervisors

**AYES:** Rosemarie Smallcombe, Tom Sweeney, Marshall Long, Wayne Forsythe

**EXCUSED:** Miles Menetrey