RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-415

MEETING: July 13, 2021
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer
RE: PUBLIC HEARING: Adopt a Resolution Approving an Application for CDBG Funding

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
PUBLIC HEARING: Adopt a Resolution Approving an Application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Grant Agreement and Any Amendments Thereto from the 2021 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to Fund a Resort Hotel & Conference Center Feasibility Study (Subject to Approval as to Legal Form by County Counsel).

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors has reviewed and hereby approves a grant application in the amount not to exceed $40,000.

In July 2017, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors approved the Economic Vitality Strategy (EVS) Update, which included investigating market demand for a conference/event center. Since the 2017 EVS Update, Mariposa County has experienced some development growth, including the approval of the plans for the Brown Bear Resort Hotel and Conference Center by the BOS in December 2020. With the growth and additional development interest in Mariposa County, the question still remains whether or not the County would benefit from more year-round businesses.

The addition of new high capacity lodging facilities with conference centers located in Mariposa County would bring year-round job opportunities to the area. A feasibility study would help the County determine the feasibility and sustainability of new hotel/conference centers throughout Mariposa County, as well as suggest possible locations. If the addition of new hotel/conference facilities is proven feasible, the County can pursue new development.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
February 11, 2014 - The BOS received a presentation by Roger Biery, Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President, providing an update on the EDC’s effort to recruit a developer/operator for the Mariposa Resort Hotel and Conference Center. The presentation included discussion about a feasibility study for the project.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
The County would forgo this grant opportunity and County staff would explore other grant opportunities to assist low and moderate income residents.

REF ID# 11932
FINANCIAL IMPACT:
This is an opportunity to apply for $40,000 CDBG funds available through the 2021 NOFA. The funds will benefit Mariposa County's low and moderate income residents. There is no match required. Mariposa County has ultimate fiscal responsibility for these activities.

ATTACHMENTS:
application  (PDF)
board memo for Resort Hotel Conference Center Feasibility Study  (PDF)

RESULT:  ADOPTED AS AMENDED [3 TO 1]
MOVER:  Wayne Forsythe, District IV Supervisor
SECONDER:  Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
AYES:  Rosemarie Smallcombe, Marshall Long, Wayne Forsythe
NAYS:  Tom Sweeney
EXCUSED:  Miles Menetrey
MINUTE ORDER

TO: DALLIN KIMBLE/County Administrative Officer
FROM: RENÉ LaROCHE/Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING: Adopt a Resolution Approving an Application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Grant Agreement and Any Amendments Thereto from the 2021 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to Fund a Resort Hotel & Conference Center Feasibility Study (Subject to Approval as to Legal Form by County Counsel)

RESOLUTION: 2021-415

The following action was taken by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors on July 13, 2021:

H.5. Administration/Community Development RES-2021-415

PUBLIC HEARING: Adopt a Resolution Approving an Application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Grant Agreement and Any Amendments Thereto from the 2021 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to Fund a Resort Hotel & Conference Center Feasibility Study (Subject to Approval as to Legal Form by County Counsel)

Dallin Kimble/County Administrative Officer introduced Tara Schiff/Economic Development Specialist who gave a PowerPoint presentation. During public comment, Marilyn Saunders/Economic Development Corporation spoke in support of the item

Supervisor Sweeney expressed concerns with having lodging partners evaluate the proposal reviews rather than staff; and referenced Task 3.5 and inquired why we would hire a firm to contact RFP recipients when we get so few responses. Ms. Schiff noted that she spoke to Rick Roesch and he was supportive; and that Jonathan Farrington from the Tourism Bureau suggested having the lodging partners vet the proposals but that she can remove that.

Supervisor Smallcombe discussed confusing aspects of the staff report versus the presentation; noted that unless there is a specific plan, a feasibility study is going to be so generic that it won't be useful; and noted that the only reasonable use for spending taxpayer dollars that she can support is to better educate ourselves to better represent the citizens. Ms. Schiff noted that CDBG requires that all activities benefit low income households.

Supervisor Sweeney expressed similar concerns, noting that he was having
trouble reconciling the concept of a broad feasibility study for a convention center and the benefit that will accrue to low and moderate income residents in Mariposa County. In response to Supervisor Sweeney’s inquiry, Ms. Schiff noted that she will be writing the RFP but would be reaching out to the Planning Department for their assistance. Supervisor Forsythe noted that it makes sense to encourage people to invest in our community if we have some of the ground work done, and that other companies will go into more depth if they want it.

Supervisor Long noted that we do not presently know what capacity we have for a conference center and that the feasibility study will allow the Board to answer that; and noted that he can support this since it is a grant to answer the questions. Ms. Schiff referenced a similar discussion in 2015 and advised that it revolved around a specific project, where this is a general study that will speak to what is feasible and sustainable.

Supervisor Smallcombe noted that, regardless of the source, the funding derives from taxpayer dollars which the Board needs to spend responsibly. She also discussed her confusion as to the intent behind the feasibility study. Dallin Kimble noted that this would also be to look at the feasibility within the market and to gauge what is sustainable. Supervisor Smallcombe noted that the only way she can support it is if it becomes a means to define a marketing tool for the County to attract developers. She also noted that she still does not see the benefit for low to moderate income households as this is an application to fund a conference and resort feasibility study. Ms. Schiff noted that is exactly what they are looking for but that they can change the title. Mr. Kimble noted it is to gauge the feasibility of any development that could be used. Supervisor Smallcombe also noted that consultants tend to give people the answer they want to hear, and noted that we want to be very clear in the RFP that our intent is to ensure that the result puts the County on a more even footing with any developer that might come in. Mr. Kimble noted that they can bring the RFP to the Board for approval if that is the desire. Supervisor Smallcombe noted that she will approve on that basis.

**ACTION:** Approved contingent upon the draft RFP coming back to the Board for approval.

**RESULT:** ADOPTED AS AMENDED [3 TO 1]

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

**SECONDER:** Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

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

**NAYS:** Tom Sweeney

**EXCUSED:** Miles Menetrey
Tracy Gauthier

From: Tara Schiff
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:50 AM
To: Tracy Gauthier
Cc: Dallin Kimble
Subject: Re: Resolution - Action Requested 12005

Never mind, we aren't going to rescind the item. I'm in no hurry to have the resolution signed. Can I put it in consent?

Tara

From: Tracy Gauthier <tgauthier@mariposacounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:53 PM
To: Tara Schiff <tschiff@mariposacounty.org>
Subject: RE: Resolution - Action Requested 12005

Sorry I just sent the email to you from the MT item as I reviewed it instead of here.

Tracy Gauthier
Deputy Clerk of the Board II
Office of the Clerk of the Board

Mariposa County
5100 Bullion Street
P.O. Box 784
Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 966-3222

From: Tara Schiff <tschiff@mariposacounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:46 PM
To: Tracy Gauthier <tgauthier@mariposacounty.org>; Dallin Kimble <dkimble@mariposacounty.org>
Subject: Re: Resolution - Action Requested 12005

I edited it.

Tara

From: Tracy Gauthier <tgauthier@mariposacounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:39 PM
To: Tara Schiff <tschiff@mariposacounty.org>; Dallin Kimble <dkimble@mariposacounty.org>
Subject: RE: Resolution - Action Requested 12005

Yes, make it easy for yourself.

Tracy Gauthier
Deputy Clerk of the Board II
Office of the Clerk of the Board

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5100 Bullion Street
P.O. Box 784
Mariposa, CA 95338
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From: Tara Schiff <tschiff@mariposacounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:23 PM
To: Tracy Gauthier <tgauthier@mariposacounty.org>; Dallin Kimble <dkimble@mariposacounty.org>
Subject: Re: Resolution - Action Requested 12005

Should I just edit the item I submitted this morning?

From: Tracy Gauthier <tgauthier@mariposacounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:21 PM
To: Tara Schiff <tschiff@mariposacounty.org>; Dallin Kimble <dkimble@mariposacounty.org>
Subject: RE: Resolution - Action Requested 12005

An item to rescind so it's not just hanging out there and to be transparent.

Tracy Gauthier
Deputy Clerk of the Board II
Office of the Clerk of the Board

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P.O. Box 784
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From: Tara Schiff <tschiff@mariposacounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:20 PM
To: Tracy Gauthier <tgauthier@mariposacounty.org>; Dallin Kimble <dkimble@mariposacounty.org>
Subject: Re: Resolution - Action Requested 12005

Thanks for your help with this, Tracy. I spoke to Dallin and we won't move forward with a resolution. We'll just let this item go for now. Do we need to rescind to cancel?

Tara

From: Tracy Gauthier <tgauthier@mariposacounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Dallin Kimble <dkimble@mariposacounty.org>; Tara Schiff <tschiff@mariposacounty.org>
Subject: Resolution - Action Requested 12005

Hi Tara,

You don't want to rescind this item or you have no Board authorization for the application.
Title should be Adopt a Resolution ..... then add your explanation.

Give me a call at 742-1228 if you have any questions.

Thanks

Tracy

Click here to Review online

Rescind Resolution 2021-415 and Approve Formal CDBG Resolution Not Attached in Original Public Hearing

ATTACHMENTS

- Mariposa BOS Resolution_Resort Hotel & Conference Center Feasibility Study_July 13

INFORMATION

Department: Administration/Community Development
Category: Public Hearing - Action Requested
Meeting: 07/27/2021 09:00 AM - Board of Supervisors - Regular Meeting

Tracy Gauthier
Deputy Clerk of the Board II
Office of the Clerk of the Board

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