RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-504

MEETING: September 15, 2021

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

RE: Chinese Laundry Exhibit Resolution

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Adopt a Resolution Recognizing the Opening of the Chinese Laundry Building at the Yosemite History Center in Wawona. (Supervisor Smallcombe)

Mariposa County and Yosemite National Park have always enjoyed a strong partnership in protecting this Crown Jewel of the National Park System (NPS) and promoting the visitor services which will endear the park to future generations.

The historic opening of the Chinese Laundry building at the Yosemite History Center in Wawona is part of a multi-year effort by Yosemite National Park and Yosemite Conservancy to tell the full range of stories from people who played key roles in the growth of Yosemite National Park. Many people in California do not realize that Chinese immigrants played an integral role in the early years of Yosemite National Park’s history. By restoring the Chinese Laundry building and opening it to the public, Yosemite National Park and Yosemite Conservancy will share the history and stories of the Chinese people who worked at the Wawona Hotel in the laundry room and in the kitchen, bringing this lost history to light.

Adoption of the attached resolution is requested to convey congratulations to the NPS and the Yosemite Conservancy on yet another successful project.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board routinely adopts resolutions in recognition of events or people.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

If the resolution is not approved, the Board will miss the opportunity to formally recognize the completion of this historic project.

ATTACHMENTS:
RESULT:  ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:  Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
SECONDER:  Tom Sweeney, District II Supervisors
AYES:  Smallcombe, Sweeney, Long, Forsythe, Menetrey
MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-504

Adopt a Resolution Recognizing the Opening of the Chinese Laundry Building at the Yosemite History Center in Wawona

WHEREAS Mariposa County has been the primary Gateway to the Yosemite area since President Abraham Lincoln first signed the Yosemite Grant Act on June 30, 1864; and

WHEREAS the history of Yosemite National Park is interlaced with the stories, histories, and contributions of many people; and

WHEREAS the National Park Service and Yosemite Conservancy have completed a public/private project which will tell the important history of the Chinese immigrants who lived and worked in Yosemite in the late 1800s and early 1900s and whose contributions made the growth and success of the Wawona Hotel and the community of Wawona possible; and

WHEREAS Mariposa County and Yosemite National Park have fostered a symbiotic relationship with many employees, services, and visitors being supported outside the Park in Mariposa County; and

WHEREAS the people of Mariposa County take great pride in Yosemite National Park being our “backyard.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Mariposa County, a political subdivision of the State of California, hereby celebrates the opening of the Chinese Laundry Building at the Yosemite History Center in Wawona, and recognizes the National Park Service for its protection and preservation of all Yosemite history for the enjoyment of posterity.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of September, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: SMALLCOMBE, SWEENEY, LONG, FORSYTHE, MENETREY
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

[Signature]
MARSHALL LONG, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Attest:

[Signature]
RENE LaROCHE, Clerk of the Board

Approved as to Form:

[Signature]
STEVEN W. DAHELM, County Counsel