September 15, 2021

US Department of Commerce, Seattle Regional Office
Maiea Sellers, Acting Regional Director
Jackson Federal Building
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, WA 98174-1001

Dear Ms. Sellers,

As chair of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to offer our support for Mariposa County’s application to the American Rescue Plan Act Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation grant program. This opportunity will significantly advance our community’s efforts to establish Mariposa as a standalone destination through outdoor recreation amenities, supporting area economic vitality while meeting public health and creative placemaking objectives. I am excited to be involved in the project.

District IV contains both the town of Mariposa, which is county seat, a dense collection of local businesses and historic sites, and the length of the Mariposa Creek Parkway. For decades, the Board of Supervisors have heard from our constituents--and I have experienced myself--the central role that the Parkway can play in connecting both visitors and residents to the economic and cultural nodes in the downtown core. We are committed to expanding and broadening those connections. As a catalyst for economic development, healthy, active lifestyles, and as an arena for community enrichment, we view the Mariposa Creek Parkway as a legacy project for our rural community.

The Phase III Trailhead and Destination Park will have transformational community impacts, leveraging previous and ongoing investments in the project to link tourists and disadvantaged members of our community to Mariposa’s economic and cultural core. And it will function as a catalyst for future phases of the Mariposa Creek Parkway project, given that the Mariposa Creek Parkway Master Plan (Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant FY 2018-2019) is completed. Implementing the plan’s recommendations will be a bold step towards implementing the master plan’s far-reaching vision for the corridor, and has the potential to forever change outdoor recreation use and related economic activity in our community.

This grant will tangibly and significantly advance a project that will be a service to District IV, Mariposa County and a million plus visitors who come to this town annually. It will result in a more diverse and resilient local economy, while continuing to make this project accessible to all Mariposans. We endorse the County’s application, and am committed to participating in all phases of this project.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Marshall Long
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
Chairman of the Board
MEETING: September 15, 2021

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Sarah Williams, Planning Director

RE: Mariposa Creek Parkway Trailhead

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Adopt a Resolution Approving the Submittal of an Application for an Economic Development Administration (EDA) American Rescue Plan Act Grant for the Mariposa Creek Parkway Phase III Trailhead; Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign a Letter of Support; and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Grant Agreement, If Awarded (Subject to Approval as to Legal Form by County Counsel)

This grant from the American Rescue Plan Act Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation program would support the planning, preliminary design, and permitting work necessary to construct the Phase III Trailhead for the Mariposa Creek Parkway. The amount of the grant is $655,000, with the required 20% match coming from a combination of staff time and existing grant funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and Caltrans.

Located on the north side of Mariposa Creek near the intersection of Stroming Road and 8th Street, this site has been identified in the Mariposa Creek Parkway Master Plan as an ideal opportunity for trailhead functions and programs such as parking, bathrooms, public art, interpretive elements, soft paths, and/or performance and gathering places.

In 2020, this property was acquired by the County through a grant in partnership with the Sierra Foothills Conservancy for this express purpose. In 2021, the County received funding from both the Caltrans Active Transportation Program ($4.4M) and the Wildlife Conservation Board Riparian Restoration grant program ($415K) to advance elements of the master plan’s vision for this site. Receiving funding from the EDA grant at this time would both leverage those existing investments, and provide for cost savings and efficiencies with the current and ongoing work on the site.

Note that the attached application materials are in draft form and will be completed before the application is submitted at the end of the month.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has taken many actions related to the Mariposa Creek Parkway project, including the Phase III segment. Among these, the most relevant to the current item
are:

RES-2020-32: Verify Acceptance of Mariposa Creek Parkway Properties with Restrictions

LTC-2020-3: Mariposa Creek Parkway Adoption

LTC-2020-15: Mariposa Creek Parkway ATP

RES-2021-17: Award Agreement to Sierra Foothills Conservancy for Mariposa Creek Parkway Restoration Project

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Negative action would result in the Planning Department having to pursue alternate funding sources to implement the Phase III trailhead project, potentially at a time where the efficiencies offered by the current work on the site will not be available.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
There will be no financial impact, as matching funds come in the form of staff time and already-secured grant funding.

ATTACHMENTS:
210902 BOS_LOS (PDF)
210902 Resolution (PDF)
900GAFLT (PDF)
424 (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Miles Menetrey, District V Supervisor
SECONDER: Wayne Forsythe, District IV Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Sweeney, Long, Forsythe, Menetrey
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MARIPOSA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Resolution No. 21- 518 A RESOLUTION APPROVING SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION'S AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT GRANT FOR THE MARIPOSA CREEK PARKWAY PHASE III TRAILHEAD + DESTINATION PARK.

WHEREAS, the Mariposa County Local Transportation Commission (LTC) adopted a 2017 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); and

WHEREAS, the 2017 RTP Goals 4 and 10 call for adequate, safe, and efficient non-motorized travel, and recognize that alternative mobility options require coordinated land use decisions and improved infrastructure within the County's more developed communities; and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2020 the LTC adopted Resolution 2020-03, adopting the Mariposa Creek Parkway Master Plan ("the Plan"); and

WHEREAS, carrying out the steps necessary to develop and ultimately implement the vision expressed in the Plan will result in a significant active infrastructure investment, strategically extending the existing Mariposa Creek Parkway resource and serving as a vital link for residents and visitors to cultural and economic nodes in the community; and

WHEREAS, implementing the Mariposa Creek Parkway will be a powerful catalyst for realizing the vision that will be expressed in that plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Supervisors hereby approves applying for an Economic Development Administration (EDA) American Rescue Plan Act Grant for the Mariposa Creek Parkway Phase III Trailhead.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors authorizes the Board chair to sign a letter of support and the grant agreement, if awarded (subject to approval as to legal form by County Counsel); and authorize the Planning Director to sign the grant application.
ON MOTION BY Supervisor Menetrey, seconded by Supervisor Forsythe, this resolution is duly passed and adopted this 15th day of September, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: SMALLCOMBE, SWEENEY, LONG, FORSYTHE, MENETREY

NOES: NONE

EXCUSED: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Marshall Long, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

René LaRoche, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Steven W. Dahlem, County Counsel