RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2012-293

MEETING: June 12, 2012

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Janet Bibby, District III Supervisor

RE: Letter Supporting MAP-21 Provisions in SB 1813

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Ratify a Letter Supporting the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21St Century (MAP-21) Provisions Contained in Senate Bill (SB) 1813, Specifically the "Off-Systems" Bridge Funding, and the Year Extension of Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Act and Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). Board members and the County Administrative Officer received notification from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC) that the Senate and House were in Conference Committee to work on the final details of a federal surface transportation bill - SB 1813. This bill contains provisions to restore funding for off-system bridges and to extend the SRS and PILT program, the Senate passed their version however the House failed to take action on these issues when considering their version of the bill. CSAC and RCRC urged the County to contact Senator Boxer who is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works to urge to her to “hold firm” on these MAP-21 provisions. Attached is the letter of support.

Mariposa County will benefit from the MAP-21 provisions if they remain in SB 1813, by receiving critical funds for bridge maintenance/ rehabilitation and with additional funding for maintaining our roads. Additionally, our local school district also receives funding from SRS.

Due to time constraints staff was unable to first gain Board approval of a letter signed by the Chairman that supports the MAP-21 provisions. The Chairman was amenable with sending a letter of support and then requesting ratification of the letter at the next Board meeting.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has previously ratified letters signed by the Board of Supervisors Chairman due to time sensitive issues.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not ratify letter and direct staff to send a letter rescinding support for MAP-21
Resolution - Action Requested 2012-293

provisions contained in SB 1813.

ATTACHMENTS:
MAP-21 Provisions letter of support  (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended

{signature}
Rick Benson, County Administrator/Office

RESULT:  ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:  Jim Allen, District V Supervisor
SECONDER:  Lee Stetson, District I Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Turpin, Bibby, Cann, Allen
May 31, 2012

Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: MAP-21 Provisions – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Boxer:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors urges you to include the provisions in Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) that are currently contained in Senate Bill (SB) 1813 in particular the restoration of funding for off-system bridges and the year extension of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Act and Payment-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT). Mariposa County is small and rural, and like many local governments across our country, is struggling to continue to meet the needs of our constituents.

Mariposa County is located in a mountainous area with sparse population which means that there a number of bridges that are considered “off-system.” Many times these bridges are situated on the shortest route in escaping a devastating wildfire or in providing critical life-saving measures. Without this funding, Mariposa County will likely need to forego desperately needed rehabilitation on several crucial bridges, due to stringent financial demands in other areas of health and safety.

Mariposa County has benefited from funding received from SRS and PILT, with our Road Fund and local school district each receiving $160,000 this fiscal year. This funding was used to provide important maintenance on roads that visitors to our county use to access our Federal forests. Continuance of this vital funding is essential to our road maintenance efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of this significant issue.

Sincerely,

For

JANET BIBBY
Chairman

JB/mbh

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