RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2012-392

MEETING:    July 24, 2012
TO:         The Board of Supervisors
FROM:       Rick Benson, County Administrative Officer
RE:         Title III Money to Fund Master Gardener Program

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve the Continued Use of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 Funds for Funding an Extra-Help Employee to Manage the Master Gardener Program for Fiscal Year 2012-13 in the amount of $19,000. Approved uses of Title III money are (1) activities under the Firewise Communities program (Fire Safe Councils); (2) reimbursement for search and rescue, and other emergency services performed on Federal Land; (3) development of community wildfire protection plans in coordination with the appropriate Secretary concerned. This proposal meets the criteria as it carries out fire prevention education similar to the mission of Fire Safe Councils. A description of the proposal was published in the publication of record on May 31, 2012, and the 45-day comment period has ended. No comments were received as of the date this agenda item was prepared.

The Act was recently continued for one more year, and the County will receive approximately $24,000 this fiscal year for use on Title III projects. Currently there is an uncommitted balance of $19,000, which prior to the Federal Government continuing this program had to be committed to eligible projects by September 2012, but this has now been extended to September 2013. Uncommitted funds are required to be returned to the United States Treasury.

Using this funding source to offset the cost of the Extra-Help employee that manages the Master Gardener Program has been included in the Fiscal Year 2012-13 Proposed Budget. Attached is a copy of the proposal.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
On July 10, 2012, the Board approved Title III funding in the amount of $74,300 for continuing support of the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013.

On May 22, 2012, the Board adopted Resolution 12-262 tentatively approving the continued use of Title III funding for the Master Gardener Program.
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On September 20, 2011, the Board adopted Resolution 11-454 approving the use of Title III funding for the Master Gardener Program in the amount of $18,800.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not approve the continued use of Title III funding for the Master Gardener Program. Direct staff to identify another funding source for the Master Gardener Extra-Help employee or release the affected employee.

ATTACHMENTS:
Title III Funds Proposal - Master Gardener 2012  (DOC)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended

[Signature]
Rick Benson, County Administrative Officer 7/19/2012

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Lyle Turpin, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: Lee Stetson, District I Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Turpin, Bibby, Cann, Allen
Mariposa County Cooperative Extension
Title Ill Funds Proposal

Project Name:
Educational Programs for Fire Safe Landscaping; Weed Suppression & Reducing Invasive Weed Species

Project Proponent:
Maxwell Norton, Mariposa County Cooperative Extension
5009 Fairgrounds Road, Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 966-2417 mnorton@ucdavis.edu

Project Location
Mariposa County, north and south of the Merced River; local communities and individual land owners.

Cooperative Extension will utilize trained volunteers to conduct four workshops and four outreach events. The volunteers will be trained and coordinated by a program representative who also serves as the Master Gardener Coordinator. This program representative will also provide project oversight and reporting.

On-going out-reach activities:
Volunteers will be available in Mariposa two days/week and in Greeley Hill one day/week to hand out educational materials and provide weed identification. They will make recommendations on making landscapes and private property fire safe.

The Program Representative will be available during designated office hours to answer questions and e-mail out resource materials.

From June through November, we will provide a booth each month at the Farmers Market to distribute literature. Upcoming workshops and event theme materials will be made available to the public as well as other educational information on weed suppression; fire-scaping; native plants and weed control.

Workshops and other events:
- A Workshop on "firescaping"
- A living with fire workshop
- Bringing Nature Home with Natives; How to Reduce Invasive Plants; How to incorporate fire-resistant plants
- How to be Fire-Safe and Bird-Friendly;
- Educational booth at five Farmers Markets (one each month) will feature fire safe information.
- June, Annual Home Garden Tour will feature a native plant garden that provides wildlife sustenance and spotlights some fire-resistant plants;
- Educational display and staffed table, at the County Fair in September will feature fire safe information.
- Educational display and staffed table at the Agri-Nature Weekend in the Country event in the fall.
Project Partners
We will coordinate with and try to work closely with the Fire Safe Council. Other potential partners are: Mariposa County Resource Conservation District, Mariposa County Ag Department, local chapter of the California Native Plant Society, Yosemite Area Audubon Society; Plant Right.

Estimated Total Project Cost

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wages &amp; benefits for a Program Representative:</td>
<td>$19,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mileage</td>
<td>$600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office supplies</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19800</strong></td>
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In-kind match:
Mariposa County will provide:
- Use of the Cooperative Extension pick up - cost is variable
- Office space valued at $2900/year
- Clerical support as needed - $800/year
- Phone and utilities $1900/year

UC Cooperative Extension will provide:
- Use of a desk top computer - $600
- Use of a lap top computer and projection equipment - $800

The Mariposa County Master Gardener Volunteers will provide:
- $1200 to purchase supplies and other materials
- **800 Volunteer hours**