RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Ratify a letter supporting proposed legislation for the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire land in Mariposa County for a visitors’ center for Yosemite National Park. Due to time constraints it was necessary to send the letter prior to first obtaining formal Board approval authorizing the Chairman’s signature. Congress Member Denham is sponsoring proposed legislation for the NPS to acquire land near the junction of Highways 140 and 49 North for the purpose of establishing a visitors’ center and possibly the relocation of the California State Mining and Mineral Museum. Having a visitors’ center for Yosemite National Park in the town of Mariposa will enhance the experience of tourists as well as increase the economic vitality of local businesses. The proposed legislation includes language that the Federal Government may partner with Mariposa County on land use/planning issues related to the land acquisition.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS
The Board adopted Resolution 10-186 authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign a letter to Congress Member Radanovich who was proposing similar legislation.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not ratify the letter and direct staff to draft a letter revoking the Board’s support of this proposed legislation.

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes ( ) No  Current FY Cost: $  
Budgeted In Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded
Amount in Budget: $ 
Additional Funding Needed: $ 
Source:  
Internal Transfer 
Unanticipated Revenue ___________ 4/5's vote 
Transfer Between Funds ___________ 4/5's vote 
Contingency ___________ 4/5's vote 
( ) General ( ) Other

CLERK’S USE ONLY:
Res. No.: __529__  Ord. No. _____  
Vote – Ayes: _5_  Noes: __  
Absent: _____  Abstained: _____  
Approved [ ]  Minute Order Attached [ ]  No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.
Date: ____________
Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa, State of California
By: ____________________________
Deputy

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:
[ ] Requested Action Recommended  
[ ] No Opinion
Comments:

CAO: [Signature]

Revised August 2011
October 18, 2011

Honorable Jeff Denham
United States Congress Member
1605 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC  20515

Dear Congress Member Denham:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors enthusiastically supports your proposed legislation authorizing the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire up to 18 acres in or around the community of Mariposa. It is understood that the purpose of the land acquisition will be to provide for improved visitor services and potential administrative support facilities for Yosemite National Park.

We are especially pleased that the bill advises the NPS to partner with the County of Mariposa on all land use planning related to the acquired lands. The Board of Supervisors stands ready to work with Yosemite National Park on all issues of mutual interest.

We particularly appreciate your proactive approach to helping Yosemite National Park advance its visitor service objectives and recognizing the strategic role gateway communities share in that vision.

Sincerely,

Jim Allen
Chairman

JA/mbh

cc:  Senator Feinstein
     Senator Boxer
     Superintendent Neubaucher
112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION  

H. R.  

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire not more than 18 acres of land and interests in land in Mariposa, California, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DENHAM introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _______________________

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire not more than 18 acres of land and interests in land in Mariposa, California, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK LAND ACQUI-

ITION.

(a) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary of the Interior may acquire not more than 18 acres of land and interests in land near the junction of highways CA–49 and CA–140 in Mariposa, California.
(b) Prohibition on Acquisition by Eminent Domain.—The Secretary may not acquire property under this section by eminent domain.

(c) Planning and Administration.—The Secretary—

(1) shall administer land or interests in land acquired under this section as part of Yosemite National Park in accordance with applicable laws and regulations; and

(2) may partner with Mariposa County regarding land use planning related to land and interests in land acquired under this section.