RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Authorize the Chairman to sign a letter urging the legislator to restore funding to fairs that the Governor plans to eliminate in his proposed State Budget. In the Governor’s proposed State Budget he is proposing to eliminate funding to fairs. The legislature is currently reviewing the Proposed State Budget and it is important to Mariposa County that funding for fairs is restored. The loss of the Mariposa County Fair would have a devastating impact on the County, economically, socially, as well as be detrimental to health and safety organizations that routinely use the fairgrounds.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
The Board has historically authorized the Chairman to sign letters supporting an issue that they deem important to the citizens of Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not authorize the Chairman to sign the letter. Individual Board members may draft their own letters of support, which may not have the same impact as a letter from the entire Board.

CLERK'S USE ONLY:
Res. No.: Ord. No._______
Vote – Ayes: ______ Noes: ______
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: _________________________
Revised Dec. 2002
Assembly Budget Committee Chair
Assembly Member Bob Blumenfield
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, California  95814

RE: Restore Fair Funding in the Proposed State Budget

Honorable Chairman Blumenfield:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors strongly urges you to restore the funding to fairs which the Governor plans to eliminate from his proposed State Budget. The Mariposa County Fair is an economic engine generating tangible benefits beyond the educational, cultural, and agricultural tradition. In 2009 the Mariposa County Fair generated approximately $2,864,000 in spending activity alone, and the network of California fairs generates upwards of $2.5 billion in economic activity.

During these tough economic times the Mariposa County Fair creates jobs through a ripple effect of fair patron spending and the business activity required in support of the fair’s traditional agricultural educational activities. The equivalent of 38 jobs are created as a result of spending by the Mariposa County Fair, its support businesses, and its attendees.

In a small, rural community, the Mariposa County Fair plays an intricate part in the County. It is one of only a handful of venues that has the ability to host large banquets, dinners, sporting events, and carnivals that ultimately provide critical funding for our valuable non-profit, volunteer, and school organizations. The Mariposa County Fairgrounds is routinely used as a staging area for emergency personnel during large natural disasters (and is the only facility in the County capable of this) and as an evacuation center for animals displaced during emergencies. Another very important fact is that the Mariposa County Fair is home to the California State Mining and Mineral Museum which pays tribute to California’s mining heritage.

The potential loss of the Mariposa County Fair to the County of Mariposa would be devastating economically and have negative lasting long-term effects on the community as a whole. Thank you for your consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely,

JIM ALLEN
Chairman

cc: State Senator Berryhill
    Assembly Member Olsen
    Mariposa County Fair Manager Bullis

Mariposa County - - An Equal Opportunity Employer