RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Adopt a Resolution requesting the Federal Government to continue funding the Workforce Investment Act at current levels. Congress is considering a rescission of $335 million of carryover funding in the Fiscal Year 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriation Bill. Without this carryover funding many one-stop employment centers including the one in Mariposa, may be forced to reduce hours or face closures, which will have severe detrimental effects on employment training and placement.

Copies of the resolution should be sent to the County’s federal representatives, National Association of Counties (NACo), and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC).

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
In past actions the Board has adopted Resolutions that support issues that are critical to the economic stability of the County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Do not adopt the Resolution. Individual Supervisors may write their own letters in support of this issue, which may not carry the significance of the support of the entire Board.
TO: SUPERVISOR BIBBY

FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution Requesting the Federal Government to Continue Funding the Workforce Investment Act at Current Levels

RESOLUTION 09-534

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on November 13, 2007

ACTION AND VOTE:

Adopt a Resolution Requesting the Federal Government to Continue Funding the Workforce Investment Act at Current Levels (Chair Bibby)

BOARD ACTION: Gwen Nitta, Mother Lode Job Training, provided input. Following discussion, (M)Pickard, (S)Turpin, Res. 07-534 was adopted as recommended, with direction given for a cover letter to be sent with the Resolution to Congressman Radanovich, Senators Boxer and Feinstein, and copies to be sent to NACO and CSAC/Ayes: Aborn, Turpin, Bibby, Pickard; Excused: Fritz.

Cc: File
MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 07-534

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE FUNDING THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT AT CURRENT LEVELS

WHEREAS, the Mother Lode Consortium is one of forty-nine Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIA) in California funded under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA); and

WHEREAS, the Consortium encompasses the four contiguous counties of Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne with a population of over 160,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, in rural areas such as ours, LWIAs are THE source of employment training services and resources, and without them workers and employers would be inadequately served, thereby drastically impacting the local economy; and

WHEREAS, WIA funding allocations are used through the one-stop employment resource centers known as the “Job Connection” to assist dislocated workers, veterans, older workers, public assistance recipients, and youth; and

WHEREAS, limited transportation in these areas is a barrier to employment and having one-stop centers provides easier access to resources and services; and

WHEREAS, the proposed $335 million rescission of carryover funding in the House Fiscal Year 2008 Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Bill will translate to $39.2 million for California or approximately 11-percent of the State’s current formula allotment; and

WHEREAS, locally this could result in a rescission of 11-percent of our local WIA allocation, or approximately $196 thousand; and

WHEREAS, with a rescission of WIA funds as proposed, this could result in closures of local one-stop employment centers, severe reductions in available services to the community, and associated political and socioeconomic ramifications within our region; and

WHEREAS, the carryover funding that does exist within the system is in fact allowed under the WIA Section 667.107(a) which states that “… funds allocated to the States under WIA sections 127(b) and 132(b) for any program year are available for expenditure by the State receiving the funds during the program year and the two succeeding program years.”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors respectfully request that as Congress moves forward on the Fiscal Year 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriation Bill, that you reject the $335 million rescission of WIA carryover funding.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Mariposa County a political subdivision of the State of California this 13th day of November 2007, by unanimous vote.

JANET BIBBY, Chairman

ATTEST: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM: THOMAS P. GUARINO, County Counsel
November 13, 2007

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator  
331 Hart Office Building  
Washington, District of Columbia  20510

RE: Workforce Investment Act Funding

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Enclosed is a copy of Mariposa County Resolution No. 07- 534 urging the Federal Government to continue funding the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) at current levels. The WIA provides crucial funding for the Mother Lode Consortium which offers employment training and related services to the citizens of Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne counties. Congress is considering a rescission of $335 million of carryover WIA funding in Fiscal Year 2008 and if this funding is removed it will have a significant and detrimental impact on the ability of the Mother Lode Consortium to carry out its important mission.

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that you make this WIA funding a priority. Thank you for your time and consideration of this vital matter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

JANET BIBBY  
Chairman

JB/mbh  
Enclosure

cc: National Association of Counties  
California State Association of Counties  
Mother Lode Consortium
November 13, 2007

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senator
112 Hart Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

RE: Workforce Investment Act Funding

Dear Senator Boxer:

Enclosed is a copy of Mariposa County Resolution No. 07-534 urging the Federal Government to continue funding the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) at current levels. The WIA provides crucial funding for the Mother Lode Consortium which offers employment training and related services to the citizens of Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne counties. Congress is considering a rescission of $335 million of carryover WIA funding in Fiscal Year 2008 and if this funding is removed it will have a significant and detrimental impact on the ability of the Mother Lode Consortium to carry out its important mission.

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that you make this WIA funding a priority. Thank you for your time and consideration of this vital matter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

JANET BIBBY
Chairman

JB/mbh
Enclosure

cc: National Association of Counties
    California State Association of Counties
    Mother Lode Consortium
November 13, 2007

The Honorable George Radanovich
United States Congress Member
438 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

RE: Workforce Investment Act Funding

Dear Congress Member Radanovich:

Enclosed is a copy of Mariposa County Resolution No. 07- 534 urging the Federal Government to continue funding the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) at current levels. The WIA provides crucial funding for the Mother Lode Consortium which offers employment training and related services to the citizens of Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Tuolumne counties. Congress is considering a rescission of $335 million of carryover WIA funding in Fiscal Year 2008 and if this funding is removed it will have a significant and detrimental impact on the ability of the Mother Lode Consortium to carry out its important mission.

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that you make this WIA funding a priority. Thank you for your time and consideration of this vital matter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
JANET BIBBY
Chairman

JB/mbh
Enclosure

cc: National Association of Counties
    California State Association of Counties
    Mother Lode Consortium