

DEPARTMENT: Public Works **BY:** James Petropulos

PHONE: 966-5356

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: (Policy Item: Yes___ No_X_)

Approve and authorize the Public Works Director to sign a Lease Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), for the Forest Service to have a Helibase at the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport. The Lease Agreement will give permission to the Forest Service to base a heavy-lift helicopter at the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport for fire fighting purposes. The Lease includes provisions for two small modular trailer offices for use by Forest Service staff and a designated parking area for the heavy-lift helicopter. The USDA will supply the modular trailers, pay for the utilities, including hookups and pay for the tie down space required for the helicopter. Staff has identified sufficient space at the Airport for placing the modular offices that will not interfere or impede existing Airport operations.

The heavy-lift helicopter is capable of carrying a large amount of water to remote fires and will be an excellent addition to the fire fighting capabilities of Mariposa County. Also, the USDA has informed staff that because the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport is centrally located, that last fire season, the heavy-lift helicopter located at our airport was in the most demand of any heavy-lift helicopter in the State.

The Lease, effective from April 1, 2002 through May 31, 2004, will also generate approximately \$6,000 in additional revenue for the County. This amount will vary dependent upon the length of the fire season. The additional revenue will be placed in the Airport budget (#0303). This revenue has not been included in the Department's requested budget; however it will be adjusted in the future.

The Mariposa County Fire Chief highly recommends the approval of the Lease and was instrumental in encouraging the USDA to base the helicopter at our airport.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Forest Service based the heavy-lift helicopter at the airport during the last fires season on a trial basis with excellent results. The Board was informed at the evaluation period prior to implementing the temporary stationing of the heliport last fire season and informed that the USDA may want to return to formalize the Agreement. As a result of last year's successful operation, the USDA, Public Works staff and the County Fire Department are requesting approval of the proposed Lease.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Negative action would result in the USDA not basing the heavy-lift helicopter in our County and thus losing the additional fire fighting protection and the additional revenue. In addition, negative action may discourage future arrangements between the USDA and the County.

#5

COSTS: () Not Applicable

A. Budgeted current FY	\$ _____
B. Total anticipated costs	\$ _____
C. Required additional funding	\$ _____
D. Internal transfers	\$ _____

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Memo from Jeff Green
2. US Government Lease Agreement
3. Notice of Exemption

SOURCE: () 4/5ths Vote Required

A. Unanticipated revenues	\$ _____
B. Reserve for contingencies	\$ _____
C. Source description:	_____

Balance in Reserve for Contingencies, if approved: \$ _____

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

RECOMMENDATION:

Res. No.: <u>02-125</u>	Ord. No. _____
Vote - Ayes: _____	Noes: _____
Absent: _____	Abstained: _____

Approved () Denied
 Minute Order Attached () No Action Necessary

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S

This item on agenda as:

- _____ Recommended
- _____ Not Recommended
- _____ For Policy Determination
- _____ Submitted with Comment
- _____ Returned for Further Action

Comment: _____

C.A.O. Initials: JM

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