



COUNTY of MARIPOSA

P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222

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MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: SUPERVISOR PICKARD

FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board *MW*

SUBJECT: Letter of Response to the Draft Yosemite Fire Management Plan
Resolution No. 02-336

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,

ADOPTED THIS Order on August 27, 2002

ACTION AND VOTE:

- Supervisor Pickard initiated discussion relative to responding to the draft Yosemite Fire Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. (M)Pickard, (S)Balmain, the Board waived the rules requiring 72 hours agenda noticing to consider this matter finding it is a matter of timeliness as the deadline for responding is today and information was received after the deadline for the agenda process/Ayes: Unanimous. Following discussion, (M)Pickard, (S)Balmain, Res. 02-336 was adopted approving the letter of response to the draft Yosemite Fire Management Plan, with comments to be included as requested by Supervisor Reilly, and with a copy of the letter to be sent to the Wawona Town Planning Advisory Committee/Ayes: Unanimous.

cc: Supervisor Reilly
File

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors



VACANT
County Administrative Officer

MARGIE WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Board

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District 3.....ROBERT C. STEWART
District 4.....GARRY R. PARKER
District 5.....BOB PICKARD

August 27, 2002

David Mihalic
Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
ATTN: Fire Management Plan
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Dear Superintendent Mihalic:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Yosemite Fire Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (DYFMP). The Board of Supervisors has been very concerned by the build up of vegetation and fuel accumulation on lands throughout Mariposa County relative to safety for the public and surrounding communities. The National Fire Plan adopted by Congress has directed all agencies to take a strong look at reducing fuels and the threat to real property from wildland fire. The County recognizes that the National Park Service has a very difficult task before them as evidenced from the analysis contained in the Draft Fire Plan. The health and safety of Mariposa County communities is very dependent on successful management strategies by the National Park Service.

After reviewing all five alternatives, the County has determined that Alternative B – Aggressive Action would be the preferred treatment for reducing the vegetative fuels in Yosemite National Park. In addition, the Wawona Town Planning Advisory Committee after receiving both a presentation and copies of the DYFMP also supports Alternative B – Aggressive Action Plan. Under Alternative B, aggressive techniques would be used to reduce fuels in and near developed areas within a period of 5 years. The County believes this alternative produces the most beneficial results by reducing fuels and protecting people, homes, developed areas, valued resources, facilities, and utilities. Further, the County supports the physical removal of fuels in addition to the use of prescribed fire methods that were also described in this alternative. The presence of these techniques and treatments in this alternative provides for the greatest opportunity to achieve sustainable forest land management.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important plan. Also, enclosed are additional comments from the Wawona Town Planning Advisory Committee concerning this plan. We hope you will consider these comments carefully and urge you to select Alternative B – Aggressive Action.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Stewart
Chairman, Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

cc: U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein
Congressman George Radanovich
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

Monday, August 19, 2002
Bob Pickard
Supervisor Mariposa District V
P. O. Box 784
Mariposa, CA 95338

CCI BOS
E. MEE

Re: Comments regarding the Draft Yosemite Fire Management Plan

Dear Bob:

The Wawona Town Planning Advisory Committee was given an NPS presentation regarding the Draft Yosemite Fire Management Plan during our last meeting. Following that presentation the committee discussed the various alternatives and voted to request that Mariposa County formally present the following to the NPS before the comment period closes August 27, 2002.

1. The Wawona Town Planning Advisory Committee has concluded that it is imperative to reduce fuels in and near Wawona and the rest of Yosemite Park in the timeliest manner possible. Consequently, the committee fully endorses Alternative B – Aggressive Action.
2. An examination of Map 2-6 "Wawona Wildland Urban Interface" reveals that an area in Section 35 adjacent Forest Drive has not been included as a Burn Unit. This area is across Forest Drive from Burn Unit W-12. This area drops steeply from the road toward the river and is presently a jumble of logs, dead branches and undergrowth that could easily ignite if, for example, a careless driver throws a glowing cigarette in that direction. The resulting fire would most certainly jump Forest Drive and proceed directly toward the SDA Camp. Much of the jumble of logs is the result of trees that have been felled by PG&E for the purpose of protecting the overhead power lines. The committee requests that this area be added as a Burn Unit, or in the alternative, as an area to be cleared mechanically.
3. The NPS has a number of overgrown vacant lots that are fire hazards distributed throughout Section 35, some of which are completely surrounded by private property. The committee requests that these lots be included with the appropriate Burn Units, or in the alternative, be cleared mechanically.

Very truly yours,

Edward Mee, Chairman