

**MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 02- 300**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION FOR A PHASE II  
PLANNING GRANT FOR THE UPPER MERCED RIVER WATERSHED  
PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Upper Merced River Watershed encompasses 660,000 acres within the boundaries of Mariposa County, and

WHEREAS, the Watershed is a priceless resource for the citizens of the County, nation and the world, and

WHEREAS, in Phase I of the watershed planning process, stakeholders from both the private and public sectors participated in the planning efforts, and

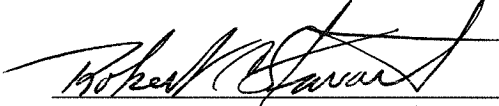
WHEREAS, the over-arching goal for Phase II is "To protect and improve the resources and values of the Upper Merced River Watershed through cooperative, comprehensive, and watershed-wide management by all public and private stakeholders," and

WHEREAS, the Upper Merced River Watershed is relatively healthy when compared to other California watersheds; nevertheless, human uses (recreational, mining, agricultural, and residential development) as well as naturally occurring events (fuel loading, flood, and invasive weeds) threaten the integrity of the Watershed's ecology.


THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors supports the Phase II planning process for the Upper Merced River Watershed as proposed by the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District in application #258 for a CALFED/Proposition 13 grant.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors this 6th day of August, 2002, by the following vote:


AYES:	Parker, Reilly, Stewart, Balmain
NOES:	None
ABSTAINED:	None
EXCUSED:	Pickard

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ROBERT C. STEWART, Chairman  
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JEFFREY G. GREEN, County Counsel

## Upper Merced River Watershed Resolution

The Mariposa County Resource Conservation District has been the lead agency in initiating a planning process for the Upper Merced River Watershed. The planning process involves bringing together the stakeholders in the watershed – public and private landowners, anglers, rafters, miners, campers, interested citizens - to identify issues of concern and to begin cooperating in addressing those issues. Under Katy Duffin's leadership, **Phase I** of the grant cycle was completed in June and included these accomplishments:

- ❖ Formation of an Upper Merced River Watershed Steering Committee that included representatives from NPS, USFS, BLM, MPUD, UC Merced, and interested citizens;
- ❖ Formation of Sub Committees on Data Coordination, Land Use & Planning, Education, History & Culture;
- ❖ Completion of various projects including river and creek clean ups, an interactive CD-ROM created by Mariposa County High School students, and yellow star thistle mapping;
- ❖ Creation of a web site to facilitate communication and share information.

In **Phase II** of the grant the watershed coordinators will continue the work of the Steering Committee and Sub Committees. A priority of this grant will be to cooperate with the Fire Safe Council and other agencies on coordinating fire management plans and educating local landowners on fire issues and on the reduction of noxious weeds within the watershed.

Because the grant cycles are confusing, here is a brief summary.

- ❑ **The Phase I grants (2001-02)** were offered on a competitive basis by the Department of Conservation. The Upper Merced River Watershed planning grant was used to hire a coordinator (Katy Duffin) who began the task of identifying stakeholders and concerns and issues. This grant is complete.
- ❑ **The Extension grants (2002-03)** were offered on a competitive basis by the Department of Conservation and CALFED to continue the planning process. The Watershed Coordinators (one position shared by Nancy McConnell and Holly Warner) will continue to build capacity, coordinate conservation projects, and participate in creating a leadership structure for the planning process. Subcommittees will continue to carry out projects of local interest. The Steering Committee will begin to explore ways of formalizing leadership and of developing a long-range Watershed Plan. The Plan must conform to the Mariposa County General Plan and to the various Agency Plans that include the Watershed. Most successful watershed management plans have required many years to implement. Since these goals cannot be accomplished within the 16 months of the extension grant, the Mariposa RCD applied for a Phase II CALFED Grant.
- ❑ **The Phase II CALFED (2003-2006)** application was submitted in June. If the Upper Merced River Watershed is to be protected, the work begun in Phase I by the Department of Conservation Grant must be continued under a Phase II CALFED grant. The applications are in the process of being evaluated and that is why a resolution from the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors is being requested at this time.

The Resolution in support of the Phase II CALFED Grant would be forwarded to Arthur Baggett, Chair of the State Water Resource Control Board to demonstrate the support of Mariposa County residents for a unified approach to protecting the Upper Merced River Watershed.

Nancy McConnell  
Holly Warner  
Coordinators, Upper Merced River Watershed

[watershed@sierratel.com](mailto:watershed@sierratel.com)  
209 / 966-2221 (phone)    209 / 966-2056 (fax)  
PO Box 746    Mariposa, CA 95338

## **Upper Merced River Watershed Stakeholders**

These agencies and organizations have expressed interest in participating in the planning process for the Upper Merced River watershed:

- Audubon Society
- Boy Scouts of America
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- California Department of Fish & Game
- California Department of Forestry (CDF)
- California Department of Transportation (CalTrans)
- California Water Resources Control Board
- El Portal Community Plan Group
- Farm Bureau
- Friends of Yosemite Valley
- Merced Irrigation District (MID)
- Mariposa Public Utilities District (MPUD)
- Mariposa Fire Safe Council
- Mariposa Tribal Council
- Mariposa History Museum & Society
- Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
- Mariposa County Cattleman's Association
- Mariposa County Environmental Health
- Mariposa County Planning Department
- Mariposa County RCD
- Mariposa County Sheriff Department
- Mariposa County Unified School District
- Mariposa Mountain Riders
- Mariposans for Environmentally Responsible Growth (MERG),
- Midpines Plan Group
- National Park Service (NPS)
- Sierra Nevada Alliance
- United States Department of Agriculture NRCS
- United States Forest Service (USFS)
- University of California Cooperative Extension
- University of California Merced,
- Yosemite Association,
- Yosemite Guides
- Yosemite-Sequoia RC & D
- Yosemite Institute

**AND** many interested citizens including those who use the Merced River for recreation and those interested in protecting its natural resources and beauty.