

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: (Policy Item: Yes X No)

Consider letter commenting on proposed reorganization of the Sierra National Forest and authorize the Chairman to sign the letter.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

On February 24, 1998 the Board received a briefing from District Ranger Tom Efird of the Sierra National Forest regarding a proposed reorganization of the Forest. The Board directed that this matter be placed on the agenda of March 10, 1998 for further consideration.

A draft letter is attached for your review and revision.

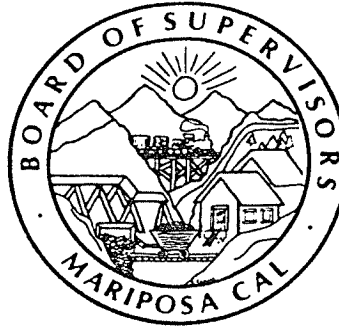
LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

The proposed reorganization could have significant impacts on Mariposa County. The Board's comments will be important for the Forest Supervisor to have in his consideration of the alternatives for the reorganization.

COSTS: (X) Not Applicable A. Budgeted Current FY \$ B. Total Anticipated Costs \$ C. Required Additional Funding \$ D. Internal Transfers \$ SOURCE: () 4/5ths Vote Required \$ A. Unanticipated Revenues \$ B. Reserve for Contingencies \$ C. Source Description: _____ Balance in Reserve for Contingencies, if approved: _____		SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: List the attachments and number the pages consecutively: <i>Draft letter</i> _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
CLERKS USE ONLY: Res. No. <u>98-88</u> Ord. No. _____ Vote - Ayes: <u>4</u> Noes: _____ Absent: <u>Janen</u> Abstained: _____ () Approved () Denied () 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		ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION: This item on agenda as: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> For Policy Determination <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted with Comment <input type="checkbox"/> Returned for Further Action Comment: _____ _____ CAO's Initials: <u>jh</u>

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1.....PATTI A. REILLY
District 2.....DOUG BALMAIN
District 3.....ROBERT C. STEWART
District 4.....GARRY R. PARKER
District 5.....BOB PICKARD



JANET HOGAN
County Administrative Officer

MARGIE WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Board

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March 12, 1998

James L. Boynton, Forest Supervisor
Sierra National Forest
1600 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, California 93611

Re: Sierra National Forest Reorganization

Dear Supervisor Boynton:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors received a presentation on the proposed reorganization of the Sierra National Forest at our February 24, 1998 meeting and again considered the alternatives and their impacts on Mariposa County at our March 10, 1998 meeting. The Forest Service is an important presence with a long history in Mariposa County, and we are concerned about the reorganization proposal. We note that both alternatives combine the Mariposa Ranger District with the Minarets Ranger District.

In exchange for County support for a previous reorganization consolidating ranger districts in 1986, the Forest Service committed to the County that services would not be reduced. Despite this commitment, the Forest Service has steadily reduced its staffing in Mariposa County and now proposes a further reduction. Mariposa County residents, as "customers" of the Forest Service, will have a drive of over one hour to transact business such as securing special use and minerals permits if the office is moved to North Fork. Further, Forest Service personnel are a key component of our Multi-Agency Visitor

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Center providing information to thousands of people each year about recreational and other opportunities within the forest.

We ask that you maintain, as the Forest Service's minimum commitment to Mariposa County, the current level of service including partial-year staffing at the Visitor's Center for visitor services and permit issuance, staffing the Jerseydale Station and the availability of the District Ranger at meetings and by appointment.

We certainly share in your desire for the Sierra National Forest to run efficiently and in a cost effective manner. However, we ask that you reorganize in a way that does not have the serious consequences to Mariposa County citizens that the current alternatives have.

Sincerely,



PATTI A. REILLY, CHAIR

cc: Board of Supervisors
Congressman George Radanovich
Glenn Gottschall, Stanislaus National Forest