RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

1. Adopt resolution approving contract with Madera County Action Committee, Inc. for provision of Head Start program services for the period March 1, 1997 through February 28, 1998 in an amount not to exceed $381,073 and authorizing the Chairman to sign the contract; and

2. Determine to relinquish operation of the Head Start program in Mariposa County and authorize the Chairman to sign a letter to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services requesting that they seek another grantee to continue program operations.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

Mariposa County contracted with the Madera County Action Committee, Inc. in 1996 to operate Head Start for the program year that ended February 28, 1997. This contract provides for Head Start operations for the current program year that began March 1, 1997 and ends February 28, 1998. The services provided under the contract are identical to the previous version. The most significant change is addition of a general provision for contract termination upon the consent of both parties. The contract amount is increased to reflect the new year's grant amount, and the initial payment (estimated at the average of one-month of costs) is increased from $21,000 to $32,000. The figure in the previous contract was a "guesstimate."

It is my understanding the Board of Supervisors has had previous discussions where turning over program operations to another grantee was identified as a potentially desirable change. My brief experience with the program here in Mariposa County suggests that it is not a close "fit" with our other education programs (Library and Cooperative Extension) nor with any of our other operations. This lack of functional compatibility makes program management and oversight challenging.

The option for Mariposa County government to relinquish operation of the Head Start program was discussed with staff from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (H & HS) who recently conducted a review of our Head Start program. At a meeting that included Supervisors Stewart and [continued on next page]
Parker, County Administrative Officer Hogan and Madera County Action Committee Child Development Director Ed Burke, they indicated their discomfort with the current contractual arrangement and support for a change. While we have not received the written report from their review, the information shared at the exit meeting was positive regarding program operations, but there were a number of items related to the contractual arrangement between Mariposa County and Madera County Action Committee that were noted.

If Mariposa County relinquishes the program, H & HS will designate an interim provider to insure continued operations and go out to bid to secure a permanent grantee. It is possible that Madera County Action Committee could be both the interim provider and the new grantee. Those decisions would rest with H & HS.

Head Start classes have ended for the summer, so, if a change is made, program services to children and their families will not be disrupted.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

A written contract for Head Start operations is required. The Board could determine to continue as the grantee for Mariposa County's Head Start program.

Attachments
MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: JANET HOGAN, County Administrative Officer
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
SUBJECT: CONTRACT WITH MADERA ACTION COMMITTEE, INC.; RES. 97-232

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,

ADOPTED THIS Order on June 10, 1997

ACTION AND VOTE:

3:12 p.m. Janet Hogan, County Administrative Officer;
   A) Approval of Contract with Madera Action Committee, Inc. for Provision of Head
      Start Program Services for the Period March 1, 1997 Through February 28, 1998 in an
      Amount not to Exceed $381,073; and
   B) Determine to Relinquish Operation of the Head Start Program in Mariposa County
      and Authorize the Chairman to Sign a Letter to the U.S. Department of Health and
      Human Services Requesting that they Seek Another Grantee to Continue Program
      Operations

BOARD ACTION: Discussion was held, and Janet Hogan reviewed changes and
recommendation for making an advance payment for the contract services; and she
reviewed options for the operation of the program. Discussion was held relative to
delaying action to determine the future operation of the program to allow an opportunity
for the County Administrative Officer to have another meeting with the federal
representatives for the program and to meet with the parent group -- Board concurred
with continuing this issue. (M)Parker, (S)Reilly, Res. 97-232 adopted approving contract
with Madera Action Committee, Inc., for provision of Head Start Program services for a
six month period commencing March 1, 1997/Ayes: Reilly, Stewart, Parker, Pickard;
Abstained: Balmain.

cc: Jeff Green, County Counsel
    Ken Hawkins, Auditor
    File