



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors · (209) 966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2016-434

MEETING: August 16, 2016

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor

RE: Letter of Support of Y-S RC&D Gentry Creek Watershed Restoration Project

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Letter of Support for the Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council's (Y-S RC & DC) Gentry Creek Watershed Restoration Project, and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter (Supervisor Jones)

The Y-S RC & DC has applied for a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Proposition 1 Grant Program to fund the restoration of the Gentry Creek Watershed. The project will reduce the fuels in the area of Gentry Creek, which is located in District II off of Dogtown Road, and will result in increased forest and watershed resiliency. While the proposed treatments will be on private property, they are anticipated to have positive impacts on the surrounding public land management agencies (Bureau of Land Management and Stanislaus National Forest) and will also complement similar projects that have been proposed by the Stanislaus National Forest.

The risk of catastrophic fires increases daily as more of the conifer forests die due to the continuing California Drought. With an estimated 75% pine mortality rate, mountain communities like those found in Mariposa County have become particularly vulnerable to disaster. If the Y-S RC & DC is awarded the SNC grant, it will provide the funding needed for the Restoration Project and will help ensure the protection of private and public forest land, local communities, and clean water delivery.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has routinely approved letters of support for issues that they believe will benefit the citizens of Mariposa County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Not approving the letter may negatively impact the Y-S RC & DC's grant application.

ATTACHMENTS:
Draft Gentry Creek Letter of Support (DOCX)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended


Mary Hodson, CAO 8/11/2016

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
SECONDER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Carrier

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 ... ROSEMARIE SMALLCOMBE
District 2 MERLIN JONES
District 3 MARSHALL LONG
District 4 KEVIN CANN
District 5 JOHN CARRIER



MARY HODSON
County Administrative Officer

RENE LAROCHE
Clerk of the Board

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August 16, 2016

Mr. Jim Branham
Executive Officer
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Dr., Ste. 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Gentry Creek Watershed Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Branham:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors is supportive of Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council's (Y-S RC&D) Gentry Creek Watershed Restoration Project, which is being proposed for funding by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 1 Grant Program.

Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council is working to increase the resiliency of the forestlands and reduce hazardous fuel loading within the Gentry Creek watershed, a tributary of the North Fork of the Merced River. The Gentry Creek watershed contains many annual springs and the proposed treatments will help to protect critical water resources within California. While the proposed treatments lie on private property, they will have positive impacts on the surrounding public land management agencies (Bureau of Land Management and Stanislaus National Forest) as well. The Gentry Creek Watershed Restoration Project also ties into similar projects proposed by the Stanislaus National Forest to increase forest and watershed resiliency as well as provide safe ingress and egress and truly exemplifies the all-lands approach to forest restoration.

Protecting these headwaters is of utmost importance as the California Drought persists and the risk of catastrophic wildfires becomes more likely with each day as more and more of our conifer forests die. The area has been hit extremely hard by the tree mortality disaster with nearly 75% pine mortality leaving our mountain communities extremely vulnerable to disaster.

The project area is bordered by California State Tree Mortality Task Force Tier 1 rating category and falls within a Tier 2 watershed. Funding this project will help ensure the protection of private and public forestland, local communities, and clean water delivery by providing:

- Restoration of watershed resilience;
- Protection of existing water storage capacity through reduced erosion;
- Reduction of Green House Gas and particulate matter emissions associated with wildfires;
- Protection of wildlife habitat; and
- Protection of the community and the people who live there.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Carrier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent than the last name "Carrier".

JOHN CARRIER
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

cc: Yosemite-Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council