



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Administration • 966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-21

MEETING: January 12, 2021
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer
RE: Title III Funding Proposal

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve Noticing for Title III Funding Proposals from the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 in the Amount of \$38,500; and Begin the 45-Day Comment Period.

SRS Title III is federal funding available for the following uses:

1. to carry out activities under the Firewise Communities program;
2. to reimburse the participating county for search and rescue and other emergency services, including firefighting and law enforcement patrols;
3. to cover training costs and equipment purchases directly related to the emergency service; and
4. to develop and carry out community wildfire protection plans.

In Mariposa County, Title III funds have been used entirely to implement wildfire protection plans including support for the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council and the Southwest Interface Team (SWIFT) project.

Four projects have been proposed at this time:

1. \$10,000 for Mariposa County Resource Conservation District to construct a fuel break above El Portal Elementary School;
2. \$10,000 for the Southwest Interface Team (SWIFT) project to continue development and acquisition of resources for fire breaks in the northern portion of the county; and
3. \$12,000 for Mariposa County Fire Safe Council to write grants and construct the Alta Vista fuel break.

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4. \$6,500 for Mariposa County Fire Safe Council to provide reflective house number signs to residents across the county.

These projects are consistent with our community wildfire protection plan and recommended for approval at this time. More information about the requirements for SRS Title III can be found at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/states/secure-rural-schools/title-3>.

Mariposa County currently has \$80,905 available for Title III projects. Though it has been renewed several times in the past, the authority to initiate Title III projects currently terminates on September 30, 2022. Any funds not obligated by September 30, 2023, must be returned to the Treasury of the United States.

Before using Title III funds, the County is required to publish a proposal that describes the proposed use of funds and solicits public comment for a minimum of 45 days. The proposal must also be submitted to the Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties Resource Advisory Committee managed by the Stanislaus National Forest.

After the conclusion of the 45-day comment period, the Board will be asked to review any comments received and formally approve or deny the use of Title III funds as proposed. Grant agreements for the respective agencies will be presented for approval at this time.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties Resource Advisory Committee last met in 2015. Staff has been advised that they will be meeting again in 2021.

On September 8, 2020, the Board considered the final budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (FY21). That budget did not explicitly include funding for the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council, Southwest Interface Team, or Mariposa County Resource Conservation District. Rather, the budget allowed for any of these entities to leverage SRS Title III funds for projects initiated in the fiscal year. It was also recognized that the County needed to return to compliance with regard to noticing whether Tuolumne and Mariposa Counties Resource Advisory Committee continued to meet or not. This item is the culmination of those efforts and project discussions with the respective organizations mentioned.

Annual agreements to fund the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council were approved in 2017 (Resolution 17-568, \$66,141), 2018 (Resolution 18-626, \$66,141), and 2019 (Resolution 19-483, \$66,141). An agreement has not yet been entered for the current fiscal year.

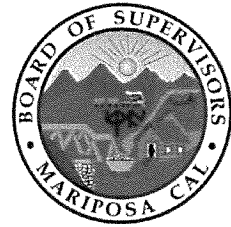
Agreements to fund the Southwest Interface Team in the amount of \$10,000 per year have been approved annually each year since 2016. An agreement for the current fiscal year has not yet been entered.

On July 14, 2015, the Board adopted Resolutions 15-347 and 15-348 authorizing Title



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III funds for the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council (\$59,380 each year for three years) and Southwest Interface Team (\$9,000).

On May 19, 2015, the Board of Supervisors gave direction to begin the 45-day comment period on funding for the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council and Southwest Interface Team.

Annual Title III noticing and agreements for the Mariposa Fire Safe Council, Southwest Interface Team, and the Master Gardeners (2012 only) were noticed and approved each year prior to 2015 since the program began.

Mariposa County Resource Conservation District has not previously been funded through SRS Title III, but the County has provided general funds ranging from \$20,000 - \$60,000 over the last several fiscal years.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not tentatively approve the proposed projects. Staff will not notice the proposals. Other proposals that meet the funding criteria will need to be solicited or the funding will be returned to the United States Treasury.

ATTACHMENTS:

2021 SRS Title III Notice(PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Miles Menetrey, District V Supervisor

SECONDER: Tom Sweeney, District II Supervisors

AYES: Smallcombe, Sweeney, Long, Forsythe, Menetrey