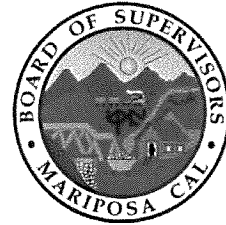


MARIPOSA COUNTY

Planning · 209-966-5151



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-123

MEETING: March 9, 2021

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Sarah Williams, Planning Director

RE: Hazard Mitigation Grant Application for Midpines Strategic Fuel Reduction Project

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Adopt a Resolution approving the submittal of an application to the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to support implementation of a forest management plan for 320 acres in Midpines; and authorize the Board of Supervisors chair to sign the grant management cost subapplication, grant agreement if awarded, and other future necessary agreements (subject to approval as to form by County Counsel).

This grant would enable the Mariposa County to conduct hazardous fuels management activities on county-owned property in Midpines, for which a forest management plan has been developed. Implementing this management plan would help reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire in the Midpines area.

The project cost is \$994,533, which includes \$745,899 of federal share and \$248,634 match share. The match share can come in the form of county staff time, including Planning, Public Works, and County Fire staff, spread out over the course of the 4 year grant period. Additionally, the match can be supplemented with grants from agencies such as the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Finally, the grant would provide up to 5% (approximately \$50,000) for grant management costs.

In the past 10 years there have been a large number of wildfires in the area and the project site is located in a very high risk fire area, exacerbated by the tree mortality pandemic currently decimating regional pine forests. Roughly 25% of the stand in the project area is already dead, and green trees with Western Pine Beetles are present.

The objectives for this project are to create a defensible fuel break along the property lines and to reduce hazardous fuel loads by way of mastication. Once the fuel break and fuel reduction is done, it will be planted with Ponderosa Pine to improve the timber stand, create a shaded fuel break, and also help shade out chaparral in the future. No woody debris will be removed from the property.

Vegetation will be treated either by mastication or cut by hand. Mastication will scatter shredded wood through the work areas, and vegetation cut by hand will be

Resolution - Action Requested 2021-123

lopped and scattered or chipped on site. The woody debris left behind from these operations will aid in slowing erosion, as well as returning nutrients to the soil, and creating habitat for micro-organisms as it decays. No heavy equipment, such as a masticator, will travel on slopes 30% or greater. This will help to slow erosion. Any work done on a 30% slope or greater will be done by hand. Work will be spread out over the four-year grant period and on-going maintenance will be required to ensure effective wildfire risk reduction.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

On June 23, 2015, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 2015-313, which approved the 2015 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The LHMP lays the framework for future mitigation planning and action to benefit Mariposa County communities. The benefit of the LHMP adoption allows Mariposa County the ability to receive State and Federal grant and assistance funding. A consequence of not adopting the LHMP could forego an opportunity to qualify for future grants, disaster mitigation and recovery funding. Multiple sections of this plan identify the reduction of hazardous fuels as a hazard mitigation priority.

On February 19, 2019, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 2019-96, which authorized application to this grant for this project, with the application to be developed by Blue Ridge Services, Inc. Ultimately, Blue Ridge Services did not produce the application, which was developed by county staff and submitted.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Alternatives - do not authorize submittal of the grant application.

Negative action - would be to not authorize submittal of the grant application.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This action would generate external funding to support wildfire hazard mitigation activities. The amount of funding generated is anticipated to be \$745,899 with \$248,634 in match. The match is anticipated to be primarily in-kind funds from staff time.

ATTACHMENTS:

11_1_MidpinesFuelReduction BCA Update (PDF)

11_2_MidpinesFuelReduction BCA Report (PDF)

Vicinity Map with Aerial (JPG)

Vicinity Map with Topo (JPG)

11_6 Grant Management Cost Subapplication (PDF)

210309 Resolution Draft (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

SECONDER: Tom Sweeney, District II Supervisors

AYES: Smallcombe, Sweeney, Long, Forsythe, Menetrey

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MARIPOSA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Resolution No. 21-123 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION TO THE HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF A FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN IN MIDPINES AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAIR TO SIGN THE GRANT MANAGEMENT SUBAPPLICATION, GRANT AGREEMENT IF AWARDED, AND OTHER FUTURE NECESSARY AGREEMENTS.

WHEREAS, Mariposa County is eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program due to a presidentially declared disaster (DR-4407); and

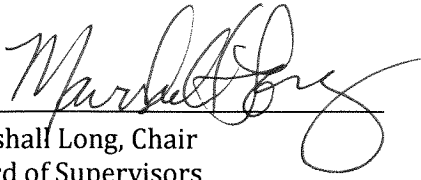
WHEREAS, the Notice of Interest submitted by Mariposa County to perform wildfire mitigation activities in Midpines (the Midpines Strategic Fuel Reduction Project) was approved by the California Office of Emergency Services; and

WHEREAS, the County is eligible to develop an application to FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the submittal of an application to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to support implementation of a forest management plan in Midpines, and authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to sign the grant management cost subapplication, grant agreement if awarded, and other future necessary agreements (subject to approval as to form by County Counsel).

ON MOTION BY Supervisor Smallcombe, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney, this resolution is duly passed and adopted this 9th day of March, 2021 by the following vote:

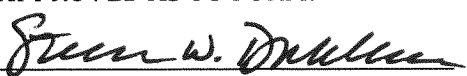
- AYES: SMALLCOMBE, SWEENEY, LONG, FORSYTHE, MENETREY
NOES: NONE
EXCUSED: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE



Marshall Long, Chair
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:


René LaRoche, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Steven W. Dahlem, County Counsel