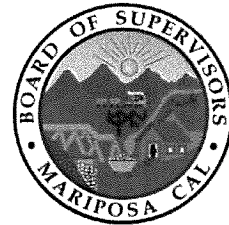




# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Administration • 966-3222



## RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-201

MEETING: April 20, 2021

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer

RE: Ratify a Letter of Support for YARTS' Request for Community Development Funding

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### RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Ratify a Letter in Support of YARTS' Request for Community Development Funding.

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) is a Joint Powers Authority comprised of the Counties of Merced, Mariposa, Mono, and Tuolumne. YARTS has worked in close partnership with the National Park Service for more than 20 years in providing public transit service to Yosemite National Park from the communities of Merced, Mariposa, Sonora, Mammoth Lakes, Oakhurst, and Fresno.

The entire YARTS fleet is aging and requires the replacement of all 10 of its over-the-road coach vehicles in the next five years. YARTS will also need to purchase an additional nine coaches in the next two years to replace vehicles it currently operates through a lease agreement. In total, these 19 vehicles will allow YARTS to continue to provide its current level of service throughout its mountainous, 480-square mile service area. In particular, this \$14.25 million investment will allow Mariposa County to maintain important access to Yosemite into the foreseeable future.

YARTS must also begin preparation for its transition to an electric fleet. In order to realize its commitment to sustainability, an electric infrastructure analysis must be conducted in the next three years to enable the service to meet California's zero-emission fleet regulations starting in 2026. YARTS has no funding through which it can perform this critical study and without it, compliance will be difficult, and service levels may be adversely impacted.

This letter of support encourages funding for YARTS to meet its challenges. Finding this support in the best interest of the public and consistent with the County legislative platform, staff recommends ratification of the letter of support.

### BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board routinely approves or ratifies letters of support that it determines to be in the best interest of the county.

### ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

## Resolution - Action Requested 2021-201

Do not approve. Staff would notify recipients of a retraction in that event.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**YARTS Letter of Support 3-30-21 (PDF)**

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]**

**MOVER:** Miles Menetrey, District V Supervisor

**SECONDER:** Wayne Forsythe, District IV Supervisor

**AYES:** Smallcombe, Sweeney, Long, Forsythe, Menetrey

# Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 ... ROSEMARIE SMALLCOMBE  
District 2 ..... TOM SWEENEY  
District 3 ..... MARSHALL LONG  
District 4 ..... WAYNE FORSYTHE  
District 5 ..... MILES MENETREY



DALLIN KIMBLE  
County Administrative Officer

RENÉ LAROCHE  
Clerk of the Board

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March 30, 2021

The Honorable Jim Costa, District 16  
2081 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for YARTS funding

Dear Congressman Costa:

I am pleased to offer this letter on behalf of Mariposa County Board of Supervisors in support of YARTS' request for community development funding.

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System – or YARTS – is a Joint Powers Authority comprised of the Counties of Merced, Mariposa, Mono, and Tuolumne. YARTS has worked in close partnership with the National Park Service for more than 20 years in providing public transit service to Yosemite National Park from the communities of Merced, Mariposa, Sonora, Mammoth Lakes, Oakhurst, and Fresno.

The entire YARTS fleet is aging and requires the replacement of all 10 of its over-the-road coach vehicles in the next five years. YARTS will also need to purchase an additional nine coaches in the next two years to replace vehicles it currently operates through a lease agreement. In total, these 19 vehicles will allow YARTS to continue to provide its current level of service throughout its mountainous, 480-square mile service area. In particular, this \$14.25 million investment will allow Mariposa County to maintain important access to Yosemite into the foreseeable future.

YARTS must also begin preparation for its transition to an electric fleet. In order to realize its commitment to sustainability, an electric infrastructure analysis must be conducted in the next three years to enable the service to meet California's zero-emission fleet regulations starting in 2026. YARTS has

no funding through which it can perform this critical study and without it, compliance will be difficult, and service levels may be adversely impacted.

The YARTS service is critical to Mariposa County. Prior to the pandemic, YARTS carried more than 100,000 individuals to and from Yosemite every year. These passengers provide key sources of tourism revenue and generate jobs in gateway communities. They also include individuals who are not able to access the wonder of Yosemite any other way. We respectfully request your strong support of YARTS.

Sincerely,



Marshall Long, Chair  
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors