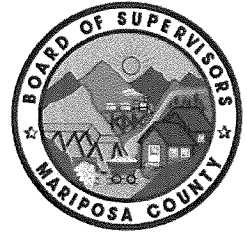


# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Administration • 966-3222



## RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-253

MEETING: May 11, 2021  
TO: The Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer  
RE: Approve a Letter of Support for Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation

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### **RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Approve a Letter in Support of Extending the Time to Consider a Petition of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation for Federal Acknowledgement.

The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation is seeking a 180-day extension of the public comment period on a Proposed Finding related to federal tribal recognition. This letter of support encourages granting the extension and notes several instances where the Board has worked with the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation as a distinct community, contrary to the Proposed Finding.

### **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:**

Do not approve. Staff would not send this letter of support.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

**210504 SSMN Letter (PDF)**

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

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

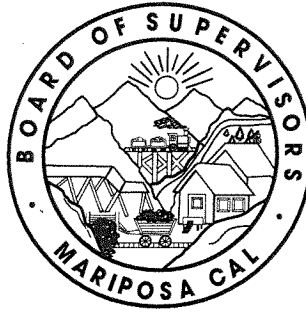
**SECONDER:** Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

**AYES:** Rosemarie Smallcombe, Marshall Long, Wayne Forsythe, Miles Menetrey

**EXCUSED:** Tom Sweeney

# 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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(800) 736-1252  
Fax (209) 966-5147  
[www.mariposacounty.org/board](http://www.mariposacounty.org/board)

May 11, 2021

Bryan Newland  
Acting Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
MS-4660-MIB  
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Petition of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation for Federal Acknowledgement

Dear Acting Secretary Newland:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its support for the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation (aka American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc.) petition for a 180-day extension of the public comment period on the Proposed Finding in this matter. We believe the letter addressed to you from Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, LLP, dated April 29, 2021, provides sufficient justification for this extension.

In addition, we would also like to share several instances where the County has partnered with the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation as a modern and distinct community contrary to the 2018 Proposed Finding. These include the following:

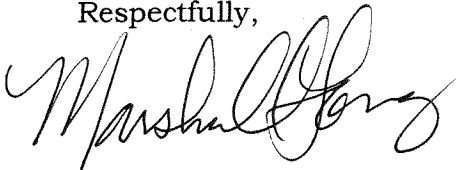
- The Mariposa Creek Parkway Master Plan adopted in January 2020 recommends and identifies opportunities for incorporating Southern Sierra Miwuk lifeways and practices into the Parkway's implementation and management.
- In May 2020, the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation was a subrecipient of an awarded Community Development Block Grant that included a needs assessment for the tribe and action plans related to housing, food, substance abuse, mental health counseling, education and cultural connections.
- The proposed Mariposa County Creative Placemaking Strategy leverages contemporary Southern Sierra Miwuk artistic practices, basketmaking in particular, to facilitate community engagement efforts around public art and design priorities that explore the historic roots, oppressive forces, marginalization and erasure of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation in Yosemite and Mariposa County.

- The Mariposa Creek Restoration Project, funded by the California Wildlife Conservation Board, relies on ecological knowledge of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, including cultural burning and horticulture, to improve the health and function of a critical waterway in the town of Mariposa.

The Board of Supervisors regularly partners the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation as a distinct community and encourages the federal government and the Department of the Interior to officially recognize them as such. The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation has rich genealogical ties to ancestors who signed treaties during the Gold Rush and actively collaborates with Mariposa County to practice and adapt their culture and heritage in our community.

Based upon our knowledge and experience, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors supports extension of the public comment period and further consideration of official recognition for the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marshall Long". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Marshall Long, Chair