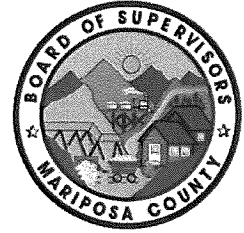


# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Administration • 966-3222



## RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-423

MEETING: July 20, 2021

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer

RE: Ratify a Letter of Support for State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund Projects

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### RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Ratify a Letter of Support for the State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund Projects.

As the impacts and occurrence of wildfires continues to grow in California, collaborative and holistic approaches are needed to address this complex issue. One potential solution to this growing problem is the restoration of prescribed fire as a land management and hazard mitigation tool, especially in fire-adapted ecosystems found throughout the Southern Sierra Nevada. This letter signifies our support of the proposed grant application, "*Encouraging the use of prescribed fire in the southern Sierra Nevada*" Project number 20-FP-MMU-0231.

UC Cooperative Extension's proposal leverages success in other areas to address educational barriers to the use of prescribed fire in three ways: the Firewise program, workshops for landowners and Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council (SPFC) promotion.

The National Fire Protection Association's Firewise program teaches people how to adapt to living in wildfire-prone areas and work together to prevent losses. Supporting this program in schools will open conversation and increase understanding of the role of fire in the Southern Sierra Nevada for youth and their parents. Prescribed fire workshops for private landowners will help to address the Southern Sierra portion of the 13.3 million acres of private forestlands that require restoration treatments. These workshops will follow the highly successful example of private landowner workshops held in the Northern Sierra region in 2018, where workshops quickly filled. Finally, the coordination of the Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council (SPFC) will create the collaborative environment needed to share resources, expertise, and strategies among the diverse partners represented by this group. While SPFC has been active for many years, a full-time coordinator will increase the capacity and effectiveness of this organization.

Mariposa County supports the goals of the UC Cooperative Extension's proposal.

### 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 notify recipients of a retraction in that event.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**SRA Fire Prevention Fund Projects (PDF)**

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

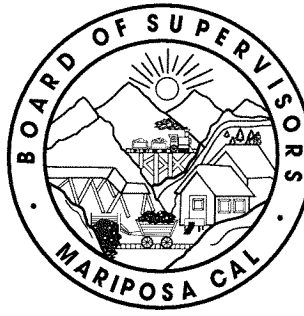
**MOVER:** Miles Menetrey, District V Supervisor

**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

P. O. Box 784  
Mariposa, CA 95338  
(209) 966-3222  
(800) 736-1252  
Fax (209) 966-5147  
[www.mariposacounty.org/board](http://www.mariposacounty.org/board)

# 11988

May 18, 2021

To Whom it May Concern  
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)  
State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund Projects

Subject: Fire Prevention

As the impacts and occurrence of wildfires continues to grow in California, collaborative and holistic approaches are needed to address this complex issue. One potential solution to this growing problem is the restoration of prescribed fire as a land management and hazard mitigation tool, especially in fire-adapted ecosystems found throughout the Southern Sierra Nevada. This letter signifies our support of the proposed grant application, "*Encouraging the use of prescribed fire in the southern Sierra Nevada*" Project number 20-FP-MMU-0231.

Despite some recent legislative support, prescribed fire is still not well understood or used in the state of California. UC Cooperative Extension's proposal leverages success in other areas to address educational barriers to the use of prescribed fire in three ways: the Firewise program, workshops for landowners and Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council (SPFC) promotion.

The National Fire Protection Association's Firewise program teaches people how to adapt to living in wildfire-prone areas and work together to prevent losses. Supporting this program in schools will open conversation and increase understanding of the role of fire in the Southern Sierra Nevada for youth and their parents. Prescribed fire workshops for private landowners will help to address the Southern Sierra portion of the 13.3 million acres of private forestlands that require restoration treatments. These workshops will follow the highly successful example of private landowner workshops held in the Northern Sierra region in 2018, where workshops quickly filled. Finally, the coordination of the Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council (SPFC) will create the collaborative environment needed to share resources, expertise, and strategies among the diverse partners represented by this group. While SPFC has been active for many years, a full-time coordinator will increase the capacity and effectiveness of this organization.

Mariposa County supports the goals of the UC Cooperative Extension's proposal. In the last two years, wildfires have burned more than 200,000 acres in our county, exacerbating a local housing crisis and creating significant strain on County resources and services. We are prepared to be involved in the success of these endeavors by providing space and some transportation for the SPFC coordinator and partnering with UC Cooperative Extension and Cal Fire to promote prescribed burning as a land management tool.

Sincerely,

Marshall Long,  
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, Chair