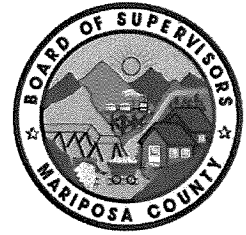


# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors • 209-966-3222



## RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-581

MEETING: October 19, 2021  
TO: The Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor  
RE: Letter of Support to Sierra Nevada Conservancy for Funding Fuel Reduction

---

### RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Letter of Support to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy requesting funding for the Planning Phase of the Sarah Priest Fuel Reduction Project on the Sarah Priest Allotment in Midpines.

Funding for the Planning Phase of the Sarah Priest Fuel Reduction Project will allow the American Indian Council of Mariposa County to conduct archaeological and wildlife surveys necessary for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to complete the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, process required permits and prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration under the California Environmental Quality Act. These reviews and permits will form the basis for a future implementation project on the Sarah Priest Allotment in Midpines. That implementation project is planned to reduce fuel loading through a fairly standard shaded fuel break treatment 100 feet from all homes on the Allotment and along ingress and egress routes (approximately 80 acres) to improve resiliency and emergency response in the area. Mariposa County's American Indian Council is working with the Sarah Priest Heirs and the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District on this project. The estimated cost of this phase of the project is \$69,000.

### BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has approved earlier letters of support for the American Indian Council and the Southern Sierra Miwuk community of Mariposa County.

### ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve the letter. Individual Board members may write separate letters of support.

### ATTACHMENTS:

**SNC\_Miwuk Draft LoS 10-7-21 (DOCX)**

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

**MOVER:** Tom Sweeney, District II Supervisors

**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)

October 19, 2021

Angela Avery  
Executive Officer  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

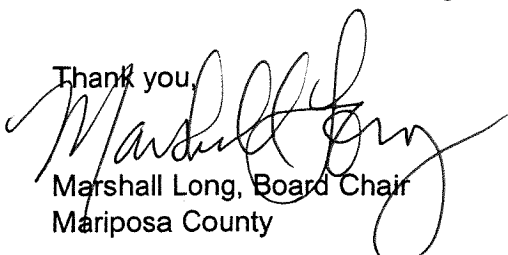
Dear Mrs. Avery,

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors fully supports the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation and the American Indian Council of Mariposa County's Sara Priest Fuel Reduction Planning Project. Wildfires have impacted almost every facet of life within Mariposa County, the Sierra Nevada Region, and the State of California. Without collaborative efforts to protect our communities and resources we stand little chance in the face of this growing and ever-present threat. Fuel-reduction projects designed to protect communities are a necessary tool to protect rural communities throughout the Region.

The Sarah Priest Allotment is a large Native American community residing in an extremely high fire risk area in the Midpines region of Mariposa County. This community was hit hard during the recent Tree Mortality Crisis and is still dealing with numerous hazard trees near vital ingress and egress routes. The 2021 Mariposa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan identifies the Midpines community as a "Very High" wildfire risk and this project aligns with Action #13 of the Plan. Removal of flashy fuels and standing dead trees around homes and ingress and egress routes is critical to protect this community.

With funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the American Indian Council of Mariposa County, working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Sarah Priest Heirs will be able to complete the final surveys required to complete the necessary environmental compliance documentation. This grant will pave the way towards a crucial community protection project. The Mariposa Board of Supervisors regards the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation as an important partner in our community. We therefore urge the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to fund the Sarah Priest Fuel Reduction Planning Project.

Thank you,

  
Marshall Long, Board Chair  
Mariposa County