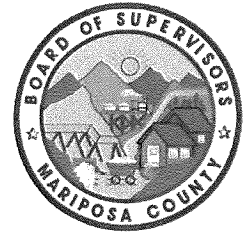


MARIPOSA COUNTY

Planning · 209-966-5151



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-629

MEETING: November 16, 2021
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Sarah Williams, Planning Director
RE: Mariposa Creek Restoration and Prescribed Fire

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Adopt a Resolution Authorizing Grant-Funded Restoration Activities to Commence in the Phase II and Phase III Segments of the Mariposa Creek Parkway, and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Permit Application.

In June 2020, the Planning Department submitted a pre-application to the Wildlife Conservation Board's Riparian Restoration grant program. After the success of that pre-application, the County was invited to submit a formal application, which included a variety of supporting materials such as a formal resolution. In October 2020, the Board approved the final grant application. This application was successful, and on February 25, 2021 the Wildlife Conservation Board voted to provide the Planning Department with \$415,000 to complete this project. In April 2021, the County awarded an agreement to the Sierra Foothill Conservancy to serve as the County's prime consultant for implementing this project.

Broadly, the tasks for the grant-funded work entail removing invasive species (Himalayan blackberry and tree of heaven) from the project area, revegetating with native riparian species, and installing interpretive signage/exhibits at the conclusion of the project in 3-4 years. In addition to enhancing the ecosystem function of the creek and its environs, the project will also facilitate implementation of the Phase III segment of the Mariposa Creek Parkway.

Initial implementation actions involve using hand tools to cut and pile blackberry vines on site. This activity involves no ground disturbance. Once piled, the blackberry vines will cure and dry for several days prior to being ignited by members of the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, with collaboration from CAL FIRE, the Tuolumne Rancheria Fire Department, and the Mariposa County Fire Department.

Future work will involve cut-and-dab applications of herbicide to eliminate tree of heaven, potential targeted burning activities, revegetation and the installation of temporary irrigation to support establishment.

In addition to working to notify the public and surrounding property owners, the project team is collaborating with other County agencies and stakeholders to ensure a successful restoration. Other collaborators and stakeholders include MPUD, UC Cooperative Extension, Mariposa Connections, and the Mariposa County Sheriff's Office. The latter two have been involved in the removal/relocation of the encampment of people experiencing homelessness that has been located in the project area.

The APCD permit is necessary to comply with the policies of the Mariposa County Health and Human Services Agency. Prescribed burning activities will not commence until CAL FIRE has declared open burning, thus eliminating the need for a permit from that agency. The project was found to be categorically exempt from CEQA.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board and Local Transportation Commission (LTC) have taken a number of actions related to establishing the Mariposa Creek Parkway and restoring environmental conditions within the project alignment, including:

Award Agreement to Sierra Foothill Conservancy for Mariposa Creek Parkway Restoration: RES No. 2021-172

Mariposa Creek Parkway/WCB Riparian Restoration Grant Application: RES No. 2020-600

Pollinator Habitat Enhancement: RES No. 2020-18

Mariposa Creek Parkway Master Plan Adoption: LTC No. 2020-3

Noxious Weed Grant Program: RES No. 2019-20

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Negative action would result in an inability to fulfill the terms of the grant agreement between Mariposa County and the Wildlife Conservation Board.

ATTACHMENTS:

211102 Restoration Activities Approval Formal Resolution (PDF)

211102 Project Area_Map (PDF)

211102 APCD Burning Permit App (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wayne Forsythe, District IV Supervisor

SECONDER: Tom Sweeney, District II Supervisor

AYES: Rosemarie Smallcombe, Tom Sweeney, Marshall Long, Wayne Forsythe

EXCUSED: Miles Menetrey

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

Resolution No. 21-629 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GRANT-FUNDED RESTORATION ACTIVITIES TO COMMENCE IN THE PHASE II AND PHASE III SEGMENTS OF THE MARIPOSA CREEK PARKWAY, AND DIRECTING THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT PERMIT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, funds were made available to the Wildlife Conservation Board to protect, preserve, and restore riparian habitats throughout California; and

WHEREAS, Mariposa County applied for and received \$415,000 of those funds to support environmental restoration tasks associated with implementation of the Mariposa Creek Parkway as captured in the Mariposa Creek Parkway Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the project area for these activities, which entail invasive species removal, native plant revegetation, and installation of interpretive signage and exhibits, is the Phase II and Phase III segments of the Mariposa Creek Parkway, which is owned by the County; and

WHEREAS, Mariposa County has hired the Sierra Foothill Conservancy to serve as the County's prime consultant for implementing these activities; and

WHEREAS, the project team also includes the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation tribal council, CAL FIRE, Mariposa County Fire, and other collaborators and stakeholders with the needed skillsets and capacity to ensure an effective restoration; and

WHEREAS, the project necessitates a permit from the Mariposa County Air Pollution Control District.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors does hereby:

1. **AUTHORIZE** implementation of environmental restoration activities on the Phase II and Phase III segments of the Mariposa Creek Parkway; and

2. DIRECT the Board Chair to sign the Air Pollution Control District permit application needed for the project.

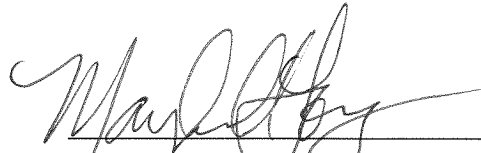
ON MOTION BY Supervisor Forsythe, seconded by Supervisor Sweeney, this resolution is duly passed and adopted this 16th day of November 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: SMALLCOMBE, SWEENEY, LONG, FORSYTHE

NOES: NONE

EXCUSED: MENETREY

ABSTAIN: NONE



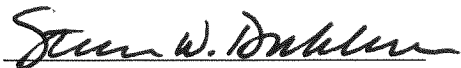
Marshall Long, Chair
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



René LaRoche, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Steven W. Dahlem, County Counsel

NOT VALID UNTIL CALFIRE ALLOWS BURNING

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



BURNING PERMIT

**24-Hour Burn Day
Information Line:
(209) 966-1200**

5100 Bullion Street
P.O. Box 5
Mariposa, CA 95338-0005

(209) 966-2220
FAX (209) 966-8248
e-mail: air@mariposacounty.org

Permit valid for the Current Burn Season:

STARTING and ENDING dates determined by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention

Permit Holder: Mariposa County Board of Supervisors Telephone #: 209.966.3222

Contact Person: Sarah Williams Telephone #: 209.966.5151

Mailing Address: 5100 Bullion Street

Location of Burn Site: Mariposa Creek Parkway, between 6th Street and Joe Howard Street

Email Address: swilliams@mariposacounty.org

Distance to Nearest Neighbor: approx. 200'

TYPE OF BURN:

- Hazard Reduction
- Land Development Clearing
- Agriculture
- Rangeland/Wildland
- Forest Management
- Ditch & Road Maintenance
- Fire Suppression Training

Material Type: brush

Acres Tons Piles

Amount of Vegetation: 20 piles

Site Inspection Required: Yes No

Date: _____ Inspector: _____

Permittee is required to report vegetation type & quantity prior to ignition: (209) 966-2220.
Call the District Friday for Sat-Sun authorizations.

Permit Conditions attached: Yes No Type of Conditions: _____

Burn Permit Conditions have been reviewed by permittee: Yes No Initials: SW

Additional Conditions: Call 209-966-1200 or 888-440-2876 for burn day info. Piles must be fully consumed on day lit. Call 209-966-2220 for ignition approval on piles that will take more than one day to burn.

This Permit may be revoked or suspended for violation of any condition of this permit or when it is necessary for public safety. The permittee must comply with all Fire protection agency laws, rules and regulations. A violation of District rules and regulations is a misdemeanor and can subject the permit holder to monetary penalties.

Permittee Signature: [Signature] Permit Issued by: Dave Conway

ONLY CLEAN, DRY VEGETATION CAN BE BURNED