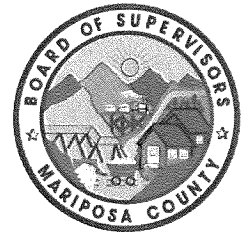


MARIPOSA COUNTY

Administration/Community Development • 966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-695

MEETING: December 21, 2021

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer

RE: Authorize the BoS Chair to Sign a Letter of Support for a Natural Resources Study

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign a Letter of Support for an Office of Planning and Research Grant to Fund a Central Sierra Woody Feedstock Supply Organization Study (Cole Przybyla, Tuolumne County Innovation/Business Assistance Director).

Tuolumne County Innovation/Business Assistance Director Cole Przybyla will present a grant proposal for a Central Sierra Woody Feedstock Supply Organization study. The study would assist the Central Sierra region, including Mariposa County, in the development of an organizational plan for natural resource industries. Mr. Przybyla will be applying for a grant of \$500,000 from the Office of Planning and Research and will request a letter of support for the grant application and study.

The current mechanisms for delivery of woody feedstock to natural resources manufacturing end users are fragmented by diverse suppliers, limited in their ability to support long-term feedstock supply, and not organized to promote private property, forest resilience or wildfire containment. As a result, there is minimal incentive for investment outside of public funding.

The Central Sierra Woody Feedstock Supply is a conceptual organization with a new model for leveraging private business capital to support forest restoration focused on connecting biomass to business. The organization would act as a broker of woody feedstock by operating an aggregation mapping tool to deliver accurate supply availability for demand by natural resource manufacturers and offering long-term feedstock contracts.

Tuolumne County is requesting our support for a grant application to study the possibility of such an organization. A draft letter and more information is attached for reference.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has provided various letters of support for partner grant applications and funding requests.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

woody feedstock organizational supply study_letter of support (PDF)

OPR Pilot Project Proposal (PDF)

Central Sierra Woody Feedstock Organization Presentation for Mariposa_cole (1) (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

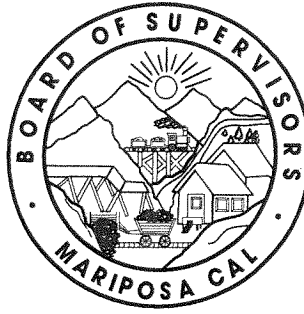
MOVER: Miles Menetrey, District V Supervisor

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

December 21, 2021

Office of Planning and Research
Attn: Scott Morgan, Chief Deputy Director
1400 10th street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Morgan,

On behalf of Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, and in partnership with the five-county Central Sierra region, I am writing today in support of the Central Sierra Woody Feedstock Supply organization study grant application. The proposed natural resources supply organization and digital mapping tool will assist with woody feedstock aggregation using a business model that promotes vegetation management, community fire resilience, forest restoration and local economic development. This bridge between private investment and public need is a critical step for the long-term sustainability of our region, our natural resources, and the related industry present and needed in our communities.

In 2016, Mariposa County was part of a ten-county area in the Sierra Nevada that was most impacted by drought and bark beetle infestation. More than a hundred million trees died across the Sierra Nevada. Catastrophic wildfires followed, feeding on dry and overgrown forests, including the two largest in Mariposa County's storied history. Thousands of tons of lumber have been left with virtually no resources to use the woody feedstock for commercial enterprise.

Government agencies, environmental organizations, and scientific research all support forest restoration as being imperative to reversing the negative impacts of tree mortality and unhealthy forests. Forest restoration will help to rebalance ecological function and result in a healthier and more resilient forest that produces strong trees, clean air and water, enhanced wildlife habitat and improved community protection against catastrophic wildfire.

The County of Mariposa, as part of the Central Sierra Economic Development District, has collaborated for decades with our neighbors in the Central Sierra to maximize public and philanthropic funds and advance region-wide initiatives. Leveraging a regional partnership approach, the Central Sierra counties can develop a model organization that is sustainable for our economies and our natural resources, partners with community vegetation programs, attracts public and private investment and improves the health of the forests loved by locals and millions of annual visitors alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Marshall Long, Chair
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors