



# COUNTY of MARIPOSA

P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222

JANET BIBBY, CHAIR  
LYLE TURPIN, VICE CHAIR  
BRAD ABORN  
DIANNE A. FRITZ  
BOB PICKARD

DISTRICT III  
DISTRICT II  
DISTRICT I  
DISTRICT IV  
DISTRICT V



## MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### MINUTE ORDER

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TO: FILE

FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board *MW*

SUBJECT: Discussion and Approval of Comments from the Board Concerning the Proposed Increase in the Entrance Rate for Yosemite National Park's Entrances

RESOLUTION 07-134

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on April 10, 2007

#### ACTION AND VOTE:

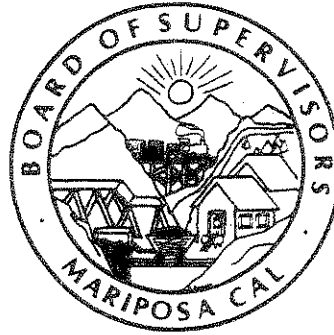
**10:13 a.m.** Supervisors Pickard;

Discussion and Approval of Comments from the Board Concerning the Proposed Increase in the Entrance Rate for Yosemite National Park's Entrances

**BOARD ACTION:** Supervisor Pickard initiated discussion relative to the letter providing comments on the proposed increase in entrance fees, and he asked that the letter be copied to the Secretary of Interior. There was no public input. Leroy Radanovich, Tourism Director for the Yosemite/Mariposa County Tourism Bureau, was thanked for Bureau's letter. (M)Pickard, (S)Fritz, Res. 07-134 was adopted approving the letter providing comments, with direction for the Secretary of Interior to be added to the distribution/Ayes: Unanimous.

# Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 ..... BRAD ABORN  
District 2 ..... LYLE TURPIN  
District 3 ..... JANET BIBBY  
District 4 ..... DIANNE FRITZ  
District 5 ..... BOB PICKARD



RICHARD J. BENSON  
County Administrative Officer

MARGIE WILLIAMS  
Clerk of the Board

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April 10, 2007

Michael J. Tollefson  
Superintendent, Yosemite National Park  
P.O. Box 577  
Yosemite, CA 95389

**Re:** Proposed Increase to Entrance Fees to Yosemite National Park

Dear Superintendent Tollefson:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I want to thank you for your outreach on the proposed increase to entrance fees to Yosemite National Park and for the public presentation at the Board of Supervisors meeting on April 3, 2007. However, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors is extremely concerned relative to the proposed increase in entrance fees and the further impact the increases will have upon the county and the businesses that are dependent on visitation to Yosemite National Park.


The Board of Supervisors believes that any increase to the entrance fees will further exasperate the visitation already impacted due to the Ferguson Rockslide. As you are aware, access on Highway 140 is restricted to vehicles over 28 ft. in length, which has substantially curtailed the normal use of this all season route for Tour and Charter Buses, Commercial Trucks, Recreational Vehicles and Emergency Equipment. This restriction has created a significant financial and operational strain on the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) by forcing the use of smaller buses to transport visitors, residents and employees into Yosemite National Park. The fiscal impacts to Mariposa County due to the 28 ft. length restriction on the temporary bridges detouring around the slide will be ongoing until a permanent solution is constructed. The permanent solution could take up to five or six years.

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors is also concerned with the impact the proposed increase in entrance fees may have relative to low-income families who can ill-afford to visit Yosemite National Park after the last increase which took affect in January 1997. The 1997 Fee Demonstration Program increased entrance fees from \$5 to \$20 per vehicle, which at the time represented a 300% increase. As a result, Mariposa County and Yosemite National Park has seen a decrease in visitation annually. When added to an already strained situation caused by the rockslide on Hwy 140, now would not seem a wise time to implement any further increases to the Park's entrance fees.

In conclusion, the Board of Supervisors understands the need for additional funding for improvements and rehabilitation of various aspects of Yosemite National Park, which are necessary to ensure safe access and a better visitor experience. However, we would caution you that any increase in entrance fees will likely further impact our County as well as the region, including Yosemite National Park itself.

Again, thank you for your careful consideration of Mariposa County's situation and of this letter. Also, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

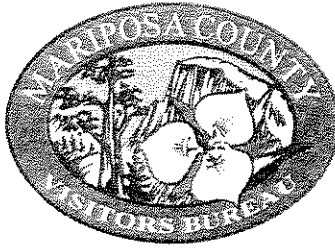
Sincerely,



JANET BIBBY  
Chair

cc: U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer  
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Congressman George Radanovich  
Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorpe  
State Senator Dave Cogdill  
State Assembly Member Tom Berryhill  
Board of Supervisors of Surrounding Counties  
(Fresno, Madera, Merced, Mono, Tuolumne)

BP/RB/mj



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04-06-07

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors  
Mariposa, CA

Dear Board,

At the April 4, 2007 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Yosemite/Mariposa County Tourism Bureau, representing the lodging and destination industry within Mariposa County, voted unanimously to object to any fee increases for entrance into Yosemite National Park. This vote will be expressed to the Superintendent Tolefson in a separate letter.

Objections to any fee increases on January 1, 2008 are based on a number of factors. First is the continuing decline in day users to Yosemite and the effect that this is having on the economy of Mariposa County. Second, the difficulties already being suffered by Mariposa County business because of the 28 ft restriction on the bridges along the Merced River at the Slide. Thirdly, the general decline in visitation that occurred after the significant fee increases that occurred in 1998. Even the \$20 fee has been a deterrent to families recreating in Yosemite National Park and increasing this fee by 20% will further have a chilling effect on the desire for families to recreate in Yosemite National Park.

We have a fine relationship with the Superintendent of Yosemite National Park and trust his wisdom when he considers his recommendation to the Regional Officer. We do not believe that a fee increase is in the best interests of Yosemite National Park and Mariposa County in general.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leroy Radanovich".

Leroy Radanovich  
Tourism Director  
Yosemite/Mariposa County Tourism Bureau