

96-286

MARIPOSA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA  
ACTION FORM

DATE: June 18, 1996  
AGENDA ITEM NO.: 9

DEPARTMENT: County Counsel BY: Jeffrey G. Green PHONE: 966-3222

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: (Policy Item: Yes \_\_\_ No X)

Pass and adopt the attached Resolution which endorses the concept of straw bale construction in Mariposa County. AB 1314, which was signed by the Governor on October 15, 1995, established guidelines for the construction of structures by using baled straw as a building material. The Chief Building Inspector's findings indicate that construction of straw bale structures is feasible if all local standards have been met. These standards are included in the Ordinance that is before the Board today for a first reading.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

None on this action.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

- Adopt Resolution as proposed.
- Revise Resolution as the Board desires and adopt.
- Take no action on this matter at the present time.

**COSTS:** (X) Not Applicable

A. Budgeted current FY \$ \_\_\_\_\_

B. Total anticipated costs \$ \_\_\_\_\_

C. Required additional funding \$ \_\_\_\_\_

D. Internal transfers \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SOURCE:** ( ) 4/5ths Vote Required

A. Unanticipated revenues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

B. Reserve for contingencies \$ \_\_\_\_\_

C. Source description: \_\_\_\_\_

Balance in Reserve for Contingencies, if approved: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**  
List the attachments and number the pages consecutively:

Resolution.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CLERK'S USE ONLY:**

Res. No.: 96-286 Ord. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Vote - Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Noes: \_\_\_\_\_

Absent: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstained: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Approved ( ) Denied

( ) Minute Order Attached ( ) No Action Necessary

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:**  
This item on agenda as:

Recommended

Not Recommended

For Policy Determination

Submitted with Comment

Returned for Further Action

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

A.O. Initials: ME

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board  
County of Mariposa, State of California

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

RESOLUTION NO. 96-286

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE CONCEPT OF STRAW BALE CONSTRUCTION  
AND ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR THE UTILIZATION OF STRAW-BALE  
TECHNOLOGY IN STRUCTURES**

**WHEREAS**, AB 1314 was adopted by the State Legislature which established within the California Code of Regulations new standards for the use of straw bales as a construction component, and

**WHEREAS**, these standards cannot be used unless an express finding is made by the Board of Supervisors that the use is reasonably necessary based on local conditions, and

**WHEREAS**, by allowing the use of baled straw, a more affordable alternate construction material will be available to the citizens of Mariposa County;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors makes the following findings:

1. California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 4.5, Part 2.5, Division 13, §§ 18944.30, et seq. provides the opportunity for local agencies to adopt construction standards and permit the use of straw bales in the construction of structures;
2. Use of straw bales will promote the provision of cost and energy efficient structures and will assist California's agricultural community by providing another outlet of a byproduct of its activities;
3. California communities' air quality is adversely affected by the burning of straw and it is, therefore, desirable to encourage other uses such as construction materials. Air quality regulations are restricting the burning of straw such that it is important to allow other uses of it;
4. The application of the guidelines in AB 1314 is necessary because of the local climatic conditions in that contaminated air from the Valley communities is carried to Mariposa County by prevailing winds, and economic conditions in that straw house construction will provide another alternative for low-cost housing.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the following standards be established:

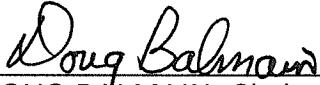
1. The use of straw bales shall be permitted in the construction of structures to the extent and subject to the standards set forth in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with § 18944.30) of Part 2.5 of Division 13 of the California Health and Safety Code.

2. All foundations for a straw bale house shall be a minimum of fifteen (15) feet from a bank. All foundations shall be one (1) foot above grade. Grade shall fall away from the structure at 2% of the first ten (10) feet.
3. All straw bale house shall have the plans approved and stamped by a civil or structural engineer.
4. For purposes of determining square footage of a straw bale house for payment of permits, the square footage shall be determined as if the outside perimeter of the house was constructed with a 2" x 6" standard framing.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that upon final adoption of Ordinance No. 902, this Resolution will be rescinded in its entirety.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors this 18th day of June 1996, by the following vote:

AYES: Reilly, Balmain, Stewart, Parker, and Taber  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAINED: None

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DOUG BALMAIN, Chairman  
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MARGIE WILLIAMS  
Clerk of the Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JEFFREY G. GREEN  
County Counsel