

DEPARTMENT: Administration

BY: Rick Benson
PHONE: 966-3222

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign a letter to the Governor to support continued funding of the California State Mining and Mineral Museum. In an effort to balance the State Budget, the Governor is proposing to eliminate funding for State Parks, which includes the California State Mining and Mineral Museum. Without State funding, the Museum will be forced to close and the County would lose a valuable piece of history and tourist attraction.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has historically authorized the Chairman to sign letters in support of issues they believe are of critical importance to the County.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign the letter. Individual members of the Board of Supervisors may write their own letters of support, which may not have the impact of a letter authorized by the entire Board.

Financial Impact? () Yes (X) No	Current FY Cost: \$	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? () Yes () No () Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$ _____		List Attachments, number pages consecutively _____
Additional Funding Needed: \$ _____		Draft letter _____
Source:		_____
Internal Transfer _____		_____
Unanticipated Revenue _____ 4/5's vote		_____
Transfer Between Funds _____ 4/5's vote		_____
Contingency _____ 4/5's vote		_____
() General () Other _____		_____

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

Res. No.: 09-313 Ord. No. _____
 Vote - Ayes: 4 Noes: _____
 Absent: Aborn
 Approved
 Minute Order Attached () No Action Necessary

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Requested Action Recommended
 No Opinion
 Comments: _____

CAO: 2993



COUNTY of MARIPOSA

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

BRAD ABORN, CHAIR
JANET BIBBY, VICE CHAIR
LYLE TURPIN
KEVIN CANN
JIM ALLEN

DISTRICT I
DISTRICT III
DISTRICT II
DISTRICT IV
DISTRICT V



MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: RICHARD J. BENSON, CAO
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board *MW*
SUBJECT: Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign a Letter to the Governor to Support Continued Funding of the California State Mining and Mineral Museum

RESOLUTION 09-313

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on June 23, 2009

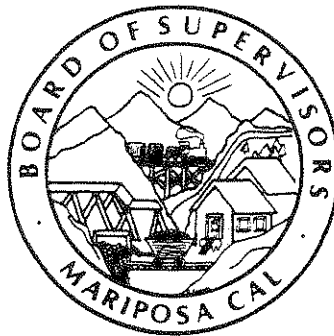
ACTION AND VOTE:

Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign a Letter to the Governor to Support Continued Funding of the California State Mining and Mineral Museum (County Administrative Officer/Personnel/Risk Manager)

BOARD ACTION: Discussion was held with Rick Benson relative to the letter and suggested revisions. (M)Cann, (S)Turpin, Res. 09-313 was adopted approving the letter, with the following changes: review and revise the sales data; include copies to the State Parks, Chamber of Commerce/Tourism; inclusion of wording that it would be unlikely that the County would continue the lease payments of approximately \$50,000 a year if the Museum is closed and the cost of curating the collection while it is closed may equal the State's costs to keep the Museum open/Ayes: Turpin, Bibby, Cann, Allen; Excused: Aborn.

Cc: File

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors



District 1 BRAD ABORN
District 2 LYLE TURPIN
District 3 JANET BIBBY
District 4 KEVIN CANN
District 5 JIM ALLEN

RICHARD J. BENSON
County Administrative Officer

MARGIE WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Board

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www.mariposacounty.org/board

June 23, 2009

Honorable Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: California State Mining and Mineral Museum

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors urges you to include funding for State Parks in the State Budget. In particular, we urge your support of the State Mineral and Mining Museum located in Mariposa County which houses the official State of California Mineral collection that was originally assembled under an act by the legislature in 1880. The collection consists of over 13,000 specimens and the Museum is famous for its California gold specimens including the 13.8 pound Fricot Nugget.

Average visitation to the Museum is approximately 18,000 a year, of which half are school children who receive formal curriculum based information. Visitors to the Museum generate tens of thousands of dollars in sales in the County.

The Museum is considered a premier visitors' attraction to the Mother Lode area. To that end, it should be noted that Mariposa County pays the annual lease payment of approximately \$50,000 to have it located at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds. If the Museum were to close, the collection would either need to be moved or the state would be required to shoulder the responsibility for leasing the space. If closed, the state would not enjoy the proposed cost savings due to rental costs and the costs associated with curating this extensive collection.

The significance of mining and minerals in California's development as a State cannot be overstated, especially when considering that the gold rush era played an enormous factor in the history of many of our counties. Closing the Museum will not only have an economic impact on the County, but the citizens of California will be losing a large part of our history that made this great State.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely,

JANET BIBBY
Vice-Chairman

JB/mbh

cc: Senator Dave Cogdill
Assembly Member Tom Berryhill
Mariposa County Tourism Bureau
State Parks Department