

DEPARTMENT: Administration

BY: Rick Benson

PHONE: 966-3222

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Discuss and provide direction to staff regarding the use of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act 2000 (HR 1424) money for the continued funding of the South West Interface Project (SWIFT) Project Coordinator for another two year - \$29,760.

Please see the attached staff report for additional information.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Financial Impact? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Current FY Cost: \$14,880	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$116,746		List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Additional Funding Needed: \$-0-		Staff Report
Source:		Proposal
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. 09-353 Ord. No. _____
 Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: _____
 Absent: _____
 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

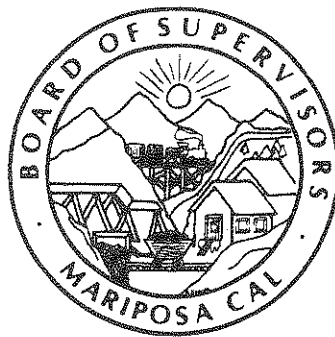
By: _____
Deputy

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Requested Action Recommended
 No Opinion
 Comments:

CAO: [Signature]

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors



RICHARD J. BENSON
County Administrative Officer


MARGIE WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Board

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

July 14, 2009

To: Board of Supervisors

 From: Mary Hodson, Deputy County Administrative Officer

Subject: HR 1424 Funding Proposals

Recommendation:

Discuss and provide direction to staff regarding the use of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (HR 1424) Title III money for continued funding of the South West Interface Project (SWIFT) for another two years-- \$29,760.

Background:

In October 2000, President Clinton signed into law the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. This law ensured that for the next six years (2001-2006), counties could count on a specific amount of money that historically came to them as a result of federal timber sales and other timber receipts. This Act was reauthorized by the President on October 3, 2008 (HR1424) with Public Law (PL) 106-393 and will provide declining payments to counties over four federal fiscal years (FFY) 2008 through 2011. The Board adopted Resolution 08-536 authorizing to receive the full county payment and to allocate 8-percent to Title II projects and 7-percent to Title III projects.

Approved uses of Title III projects are: (1) activities under the Firewise Communities program (similar to Fire Safe Councils); (2) reimbursement for search and rescue and other emergency services performed on Federal land; (3) develop community wildfire protection plans in coordination with the appropriate Secretary concerned. Additionally, before final approval by the Board of Supervisors the proposals require a 45-day public comment period after being published in the publication of local record and the proposal must be submitted to the Tuolumne-Mariposa County RAC. After the funds are expended the County must also submit certification to the Secretary of Agriculture that the funds were used for the authorized purposes of this bill. The authority to initiate projects terminates September 30, 2011, and any funds not obligated by September 30, 2012, must be returned to the Treasury of the United States.

Attached is a spreadsheet detailing previously approved Title projects.

Discussion:

Mariposa County Fire Jim Wilson is agreeable with funding a coordinator for a two year period in an amount of \$29, 760. The SWIFT project is a multi-agency effort that has completed its seventh year of activity. The project coordinates a team of Federal, State, County, and two Fire Safe Councils working a collaborative partnership in wildfire protection efforts. SWIFT utilizes strategic wildfire protection planning and implementation measures in northern Mariposa and southern Tuolumne counties within a 132,000 acre project area. SWIFT supplies both direct and indirect wildfire protection measures to mitigate loss of life, property and natural resources in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Fire protection treatments are aimed at mitigating losses in the WUI zones (home and community areas). They are also planned and implemented in places where strategic fire defense systems may prevent fire spread from reaching the WUI. This has added value in the protection of valuable watersheds.

Attached is a copy of the SWIFT proposal that provide greater detail.

If the Board wishes to pursue this project, they will tentatively approve the project today and direct staff to notice the project and begin the 45-day comment period. Additionally the proposal will be sent to the Tuolumne-Mariposa County RAC. At the end of the 45-day comment period the Board would then be asked to review any comments received and to formally approve the use of Title III funds for this project. A personal services agreement for the projects will be presented for approval at this time.

Financial Impact:

The County received \$40,999 in Fiscal Year 2008-09 for use on Title III projects and is scheduled to receive \$36,899 in this fiscal year. There is currently an uncommitted balance of \$116,746 in the Forest Reserve Fund, which is sufficient to fund this project.

mbh
Attachments

BOARD APPROVED TITLE III PROJECTS

July 1, 2009

Project Description	Approved Amount	Expended Amount	Status
Planning phase for the construction of the Jordan Creek Bridge. (4/02)	\$20,988	\$20,988	Completed
County-wide chipping education/demonstration project. (4/03)	\$80,000	\$75,282	Completed
Southwest Interface Project (SWIFT). (4/03)	\$29,988	\$29,038	Completed
Mariposa County Fire Safe Council. (12/03)	\$46,764	\$37,263	Completed
Continued funding of SWIFT. (4/05)	\$28,800	\$28,800	Completed
Continued funding of Mariposa County Fire Safe Council. (4/05)	\$46,567	\$46,567	Completed
Fuel reduction program utilizing California Department of Corrections crews. (4/05)	\$8,000	\$0	In Progress
Continued funding of Mariposa County Fire Safe Council. (1/06)	\$26,750	\$26,750	Completed
Continued funding of Mariposa County Fire Safe Council. (6/06)	\$51,400	\$51,400	Completed
Defensible space education/chipping demonstration program. (6/06)	\$27,390	\$27,390	Completed
Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council brochure. (6/06)	\$12,000	\$12,000	Completed
Supplies for County's Fire Safety Trailer. (9/06)	\$5,000	\$4,954	Completed
Fuel reduction program utilizing California Department of Corrections crews. (6/07)	\$20,000	\$0	In Progress
Continued funding of Mariposa County Fire Safe Council. (7/07)	\$51,400	\$51,400	Completed
Southwest Interface Project (SWIFT). (7/07)	\$29,280	\$28,304	In Progress
Supplies for County's Fire Safety Trailer. (11/07)	\$5,000	\$5,000	Completed
Continued funding of Mariposa County Fire Safe Council. (6/08)	\$129,057	\$43,019	In Progress
TOTAL:	\$618,384	\$488,155	

REVENUE RECEIVED FOR
TITLE III PROJECTS

Fiscal Year	Amount Received
2001-02	\$91,428
2002-03	\$92,160
2003-04	\$93,266
2004-05	\$94,478
2005-06	\$96,651
2006-07	\$97,617
2007-08	\$97,418
2008-09	\$40,999
Total:	\$704,017

REMAINING FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR TITLE III PROJECTS	
Cash Balance - 7/01/09:	\$231,760
Less Amount for Projects in Progress:	\$115,014
Unencumbered Balance:	\$116,746

South West Interface Project (SWIFT) Title III Project Proposal

Request:

The County of Mariposa join with the County of Tuolumne in support of the SWIFT Project Coordinator with Title III funds by entering into a personal services agreement with Tom James to serve as the SWIFT Project Coordinator. Agreement is to be for a two year period, with 960 hours of work at \$31 per hour for a total cost of \$29,760.

Conformance to the Intent of HR 1424:

The SWIFT Project's goal is to cooperatively plan and implement a strategic fire defense system designed to reduce the threat of loss to life, property, and natural resources in the Southern Tuolumne and Northern Mariposa County urban-wild land interface. Currently, County, State, and Federal agencies are working together to mitigate the fire problems in this specific area. This area of 132,000 acres has a unique history of repeated large catastrophic fires. The agencies involved all have various protection responsibilities within the area and have joined together in an interagency team effort to work on mitigating the fire problems. The team consists of representatives from Mariposa and Tuolumne County Fire Departments, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal FIRE) for the Tuolumne/Calaveras and Madera/Mariposa/Merced Units, The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Forest Service, Central Sierra Resource Conservation and Development, the City and County of San Francisco, Mariposa County Fire Safe Council, and Tuolumne County Fire Safe Council.

There are a total of 12 watersheds within the project area. The watersheds are a very significant value within the area. Large wildfires common to the area have the potential of seriously damaging the watersheds that could in turn affect future water and power supplies. There are 10 residential areas inside the project boundary.

Opportunities to support fire protection come from strategically placed and well planned thinning projects, biomass operations, and multi-product vegetation offerings. Efforts are made to enlist the wood products industry in working cooperatively with the interagency team to find ways to accomplish protection objectives with environmental, social, political, and financial requirements.

The SWIFT project had been planned to enhance and benefit forest and watershed health within the specific area. Tom James retired from the Groveland Ranger District as Fire Management Officer and has been serving as Project Coordinator with the support of the member agencies. Typical duties include mapping, meeting coordination and agenda preparation, filing and recording project documents, preparing power point presentations, and meetings with member agencies.