



**MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
ONLINE AGENDA SUMMARY**

**BOARD AGENDA # 4(29)**

- Arrangements for public hearings and timed presentations must be made with the Clerk of the Board in advance of public/media noticing
- Agenda Summaries must be submitted no later than *noon* Monday, 15 days prior to the meeting date (along with electronic submittals)
- Send 14 complete sets (original, single-sided+13 copies) – Items must be signed-off by appropriate departments and/or County Counsel
- Transmittal of electronic Agenda Summaries and associated records must be emailed to: [bosagenda@co.mendocino.ca.us](mailto:bosagenda@co.mendocino.ca.us)
- Electronic Agenda Transmission Checklist:  Agenda Summary  Records  If applicable, list other online information below
- Executed records will be returned to the department within one week. Arrangements for expedited processing must be made in advance

TO: Board of Supervisors DATE: June 16, 2009

FROM: Supervisor Smith MEETING DATE: June 23, 2009

DEPARTMENT RESOURCE/CONTACT: Kristi Furman PHONE: 463-4221 Present  On Call

Consent Agenda  Regular Agenda  Noticed Public Hearing  Time Allocated for Item: N/A

**AGENDA TITLE: Adoption of Resolution in Support of the Redwood Forest Foundation and the Foundation's Sale of a Usal Redwood Forest Conservation Easement**

**PREVIOUS BOARD/BOARD COMMITTEE ACTIONS:** None related to this specific item.

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:** Representatives of the Redwood Forest Foundation (RFFI) are requesting the Board's support to obtain State of California funding to purchase a conservation easement on the Usal Redwood Forest.

The Redwood Forest Foundation's (RFFI) genesis comes out of the "timber wars" where previously warring parties have come together to form a 501c3 whose mission is to acquire, protect, restore, and manage forestlands and other related resources in the Redwood Region for the long-term benefit of the communities located there.

RFFI is striving to create a model of "working community forests" by sustainably managing Redwood forests surrounding the communities of the Redwood Region. To this end, RFFI has recently purchased the 51,000 acre Usal Redwood Forest.

The RFFI model is about the 3E's - Economic Vitality, Environmental Integrity and Social Equity. What is unique about RFFI is that the forest will be protected as a working forest in perpetuity through the sale of a conservation easement and future excess revenues will go back into the community. RFFI envisions the creation of self sustaining communities managing community-held assets with a focus on benefits to future generations--communities that give local residents both the opportunity and the responsibility to manage their natural resources effectively and to enjoy the benefits of that responsibility.

Conservation Financing is one of the keys to making the RFFI model work. The sale of a conservation easement was a fundamental assumption in the acquisition. RFFI is seeking the support of the Board of Supervisors to make sure that RFFI's goals and the goals of the entire community which are one and the same, are met.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON FILE WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD (CHECKED BY COB IF APPLICABLE):**

FISCAL IMPACT:			
Source of Funding	Current F/Y Cost	Annual Recurring Cost	Budgeted in Current F/Y
N/A			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT:** 1  2  3  4  5  All  **VOTE REQUIREMENT:** Majority  4/5ths

**RECOMMENDED ACTION/MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors adopt the resolution as presented, authorizing the Chair to sign same.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

**CEO REVIEW (NAME):** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** 463-4441

**RECOMMENDATION:** Agree  Disagree  No Opinion  Alternate  Staff Report Attached

**BOARD ACTION (DATE: 6.23.09):**  Approved  Referred to \_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**RECORDS EXECUTED:**  Agreement: \_\_\_\_\_  Resolution: 09-132  Ordinance: \_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_

## RESOLUTION NO. 09-132

### RESOLUTION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN SUPPORT OF THE REDWOOD FOREST FOUNDATION AND THE FOUNDATION'S SALE OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT

WHEREAS, approximately 50% of Mendocino County is comprised of some of the most productive timberlands in the world; and

WHEREAS, Mendocino County's private industrial forests sequester and hold significant amounts of carbon; provide important salmon, steelhead, spotted owl, marbled murrelet and other threatened and endangered species habitats; provide abundant and high quality water sources; and serve as a source for a wide array of recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the forest products industry continues to serve as an important tax base and generator of family wage jobs for the citizens of Mendocino County; and

WHEREAS, approximately 59 million acres of the nation's 70 million acres of industrial timberland have changed ownership due to macro-economic trends that make it attractive to fragment and sell forestlands, and whereas this trend is expected to continue as investors exit their timberland investments; and

WHEREAS, Mendocino County's citizens have often held strong and differing perspectives regarding how local forests should be managed to ensure the many environmental, economic and social benefits they provide; and

WHEREAS, a group of Mendocino County citizens with backgrounds in timber industry, conservation, finance, forestry, local government, and other disciplines formed the Redwood Forest Foundation out of concern that changes in forestland ownership could undermine forest management practices that provide the environmental, economic and social benefits highlighted above; and

WHEREAS, the Redwood Forest Foundation acquired the 50,000 acre Usal Redwood Forest to assure that this property will be perpetually managed as a working forest and whose economic attributes include a substantial inventory of high quality redwood and Douglas-fir timber which will allow for a sustained yield of timber volume and generate a sustained annual cash flow and whose environmental attributes include: a diversity of natural communities representative of the redwood forest ecoregion, including mixed coniferous forest, mixed evergreen forest and oak woodlands, and associated rare or sensitive species such as northern spotted owl, southern torrent salamander, tailed frog and Vaux swift; and the entirety of several important streams and tributaries to the Benow HSA of the South Fork of the Eel River and the Usal Creek HSA of the Mendocino Coast HU, which are identified as high priorities for restoration and management in the California Coho Recovery Strategy; and

WHEREAS, conservation easements are an effective tool that landowners and local communities can use to protect important natural resources while leaving the property in private hands, on the tax rolls and in production; and

WHEREAS, the sale of a conservation easement by the Redwood Forest Foundation to The Conservation Fund will allow the Foundation to reduce debt and thereby insure its ability to implement conservation management practices in perpetuity that include, among other provisions, prohibiting development and fragmentation, increasing forest inventory; improving water quality; and maintaining sustainable timber production; and

WHEREAS, failure to sell a conservation easement threatens the Redwood Forest Foundation's ability to retain ownership of the property and increases the likelihood that property would be managed for purposes other than long-term sustainable forestry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

(1) The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors strongly supports the Redwood Forest Foundation's unique governance structure that brings people with different perspectives together to determine how to best manage its forest; and

(2) The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors strongly supports the Redwood Forest Foundation's acquisition of the Usal Forest and desires to see this model succeed for the benefit of the County and the State of California; and that

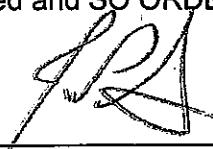
(3) The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors strongly encourages that Proposition 84 and other public and philanthropic sources be used to fund The Conservation Fund's acquisition of a conservation easement from the Redwood Forest Foundation so that this forest will remain in sustainable forest production.

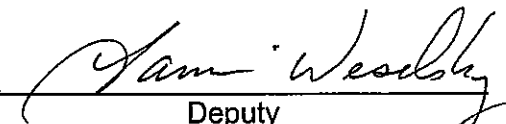
The foregoing Resolution introduced by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Brown, and carried this 23rd day of June, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Brown, McCowen, Pinches, Smith and Colfax  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared said Resolution adopted and SO ORDERED.

ATTEST: KRISTI FURMAN  
Clerk of the Board

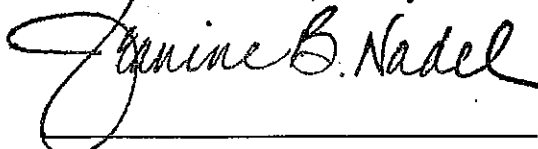
  
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JOHN PINCHES, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

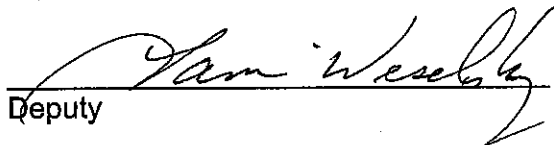
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
JEANINE B. NADEL, County Counsel

BY: KRISTI FURMAN  
Clerk of the Board

  
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Deputy