RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2014-154

MEETING: April 15, 2014

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tessa Pritchard, Human Resources Director/Risk Manager

RE: Resolution Authorizing Workers' Comp. Coverage for Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue Volunteers

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Adopt a Resolution authorizing that the Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue volunteers, which includes members of the Sheriff's Posse, are covered through Mariposa County's Workers' Compensation Program. For many years, the County has been providing Workers' Compensation coverage for Search and Rescue personnel; this includes volunteers of the Sheriff's Posse which are under the umbrella of Search and Rescue. It was discovered that a formal Resolution covering these specific groups had not been adopted by the Board of Supervisors. A general Resolution, Resolution No. 73-54, however, was adopted by the then Board of Supervisors which covered all volunteers; this would have included both of these groups. In a separate Board action today, there is a recommendation to rescind Resolution No. 73-54 and with its rescission, coverage for these groups would be terminated. Therefore, it is important that the Board adopts a Resolution authorizing the provision of Worker's Compensation coverage for Search and Rescue volunteers as well as Sheriff's Posse volunteers.

Both of these groups provide a valuable service to the community. The Search and Rescue team is ready to assist in any emergency under various types of conditions. Members of this highly trained group of volunteers must have the skills and knowledge to perform rescues in the white water of the local rivers, off the cliffs and mountains, and in the back country of the National Forests. Members of the Sheriff's Posse are called on to assist in search and rescue operations, crowd control, and any other assignment where a horse and rider can best handle the situation.

Continuing Workers' Compensation coverage for volunteers of Search and Rescue and the Sheriff's Posse, Mariposa County is appropriate as it provides Workers' Compensation to a group of employees who perform functions that can often be dangerous.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
Various sitting Boards of Supervisors have adopted Resolutions which provide Workers' Compensation for other Sheriff's Office volunteers.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Should the Board decide not to adopt the Resolution, Search and Rescue volunteers
and Sheriff Posse volunteers would no longer be covered under the County's Workers' Compensation Program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
None on this action.

ATTACHMENTS:
Workers Comp Resolution (DOCX)

CAO RECOMMENDATION
Requested Action Recommended

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Janet Bibby, District III Supervisor
SECONDER: John Carrier, District V Supervisor
AYES: Stetson, Jones, Bibby, Cann, Carrier
MARIPosa COUNTY RESOLUTION 14 - 154
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE
FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE VOLUNTEERS AS WELL
AS VOLUNTEERS OF THE SHERIFF'S POSSE

WHEREAS, volunteers of the Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue team as well as
volunteers of the Sheriff's Posse have been covered through Mariposa County's
Workers' Compensation Program, and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 73-54, which authorized Workers' Compensation for
these volunteers, has been rescinded by the Board of Supervisors, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors desires to continue to provide Workers’
Compensation coverage for those volunteers of the Search and Rescue team as well as
those volunteers of the Sheriff's Posse because of the valuable and often dangerous
service that they provide to the community;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mariposa County Board of
Supervisors, a political subdivision of the State of California, does hereby resolve to
authorize that Search and Rescue volunteers as well as Sheriff’s Posse volunteers will
continue to be covered through Mariposa County's Workers' Compensation Program.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of April, 2014 by the following vote:

AYES: STETSON, JONES, BIBBY, CANN, CARRIER
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAINED: NONE

Kevin Cann, Chair
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
René LaRoche
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Steven W. Dahlem
County Counsel