



# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Health • (209) 966-3689



## RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2015-523

MEETING: November 3, 2015  
TO: The Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Charles Mosher, Acting Health Officer  
RE: Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response  
(CASPER)

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### RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Authorize the Health Department to Implement a Community-Wide Survey to Assess the Impacts of the Drought on Our Community - Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER).

The State Health Department is offering to assist selected counties with conducting a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) survey to assess the financial, emotional, and water use habit impacts of the drought. Their tool for this is called Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER). By requesting the funding and completing the survey, the County may request reimbursement for certain costs associated with conducting the survey (meals, transportation, etc). Any document that must be signed for the release of the funding will be reviewed by County Counsel for approval as to form.

The previous Health Officer had implemented this Program. He was working with UC Merced to provide 30 student interviewers and had arranged with the State to conduct training to these interviewees on October 22, 23, and 24, 2015. Conversations with State officials reveal that the interviewers were to conduct door-to-door surveying of 210 Mariposa households and that the interviewers would be paid.

Health Department staff discussed this situation with State representatives on Monday, October 19, 2015. In conversation with the contact at UC Merced, it was learned that they were unable to find the requested 30 candidates in time for the scheduled training.

Staff analysis of the cost and benefits of the survey (attached) leads us to believe that the considerable effort and investment of County assets to conduct such a survey is justifiable, with respect to the benefit the County will accrue, including:

- baseline data on Mental Health impact of drought
- baseline data on financial impact of drought
- baseline data on changed water use habits
- results will better position the County and its citizens for financial reimbursement for drought-related costs

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If authorized, the Health Department will recruit surveyors from among Mariposa citizens, inform the public, arrange State-led training and supervision of surveyors (including safety training), dedicate staff to data collection, seek augmentation funds from the State to cover expenses, and provide a report to the Board.

### **BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

None.

### **ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

Do not authorize the Health Officer to implement the Community-Wide Survey. The affects of the drought on the residents of Mariposa County may not be fully known or documented.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

**Authorize Health Officer to apply for funding from the State for this activity (\$10,000). When the funding is received the appropriate budget action will be presented to the Board for reveiw and approval.**

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

**Memo-Staff Assessment of CASPER Survey for Drought Emergency (PDF)**

### **CAO RECOMMENDATION**

Requested Action Recommended

  
Mary Hodson, CAO 10/29/2015

**RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**

**MOVER:** Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

**SECONDER:** Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor

**AYES:** Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Carrier



# Mariposa County Health Department


Charles B. Mosher, MD, MPH, Interim Health Officer

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October 21, 2015

TO: Charles B. Mosher, MD, MPH, Interim Health Officer

FROM: Dana Tafoya, PHEP Coordinator 

SUBJECT: Staff Assessment of CASPER Survey for Drought Emergency

## CASPER Survey

The CASPER Survey (Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response) is a survey model developed by the CDC to rapidly assess the medical and health impact in a population during and after an emergency. The data that is obtained from a CASPER survey is used to identify immediate needs that resources can be quickly provided for mitigation. Additionally, the data is used to quantify costs related to the disaster that are often reimbursable through emergency declaration funding at the State and Federal level.

The CASPER Survey for Drought Emergency was developed in collaboration with Merced, Mariposa, Madera, and Tulare Counties to identify the health and medical impact of the ongoing drought within each of the operational areas.

## Participation

### PROS:

1. Data collected will:
  - a. Identify areas requiring additional drought relief resources
  - b. Quantify the impact of drought in Mariposa
  - c. Identify communication strategies that work well in Mariposa County
  - d. Assist the State to identify how the critical information on drought and preparedness is being interpreted at the community level
  - e. Results of (d) will enable the State to reform the drought information campaign as necessary
  - f. Assess the community's participation in water conservation
2. Performance of the Survey will:

- a. Utilize volunteers and staff in Mariposa County under a simulated emergency response framework, thereby affording the opportunity to practice emergency response in a controlled environment for improved performance during a real event.
- b. Enhance future grant opportunities

**CONS:**

1. A lot of work
2. Will require prioritization, diligence, and timely decisions

**Logistics**

Performance of the CASPER Survey will require 30 staff and volunteers for three full day commitments to survey 210 randomly chosen households from census blocks. The households are chosen by an algorithm provided by the State.

A suitable location must be obtained for event operations, surveyor transportation, and breakfast/lunch meals for all personnel. Mileage reimbursement for personal vehicles may also be considered, but is not required.

Options for surveyors include:

County staff

County volunteers\*

Local American Red Cross personnel\*

Community members that wish to volunteer may also be considered \*

\*Per the State, due to Mariposa County's current Drought Disaster Declaration and the State Drought Disaster Declaration, all volunteers not covered currently by the County can be sworn in on site as Disaster Service Workers, which then provides Worker's Compensation and insurance, in the event an injury or property damage occurs.