WHEREAS the Occupational Health Program has been a part of the California Department of Health since 1936 and
WHEREAS the Occupational Health and Safety responsibility in California is split between the Department of Health and the Department of Industrial Relations, and
WHEREAS OSHA has consistently emphasized occupational safety rather than Occupational health, and
WHEREAS the working people of California are better served when the full resources of two departments, rather than just one, are brought to bear on their health and safety problems, and
WHEREAS the technical and professional skills of health personnel and their necessary technical and scientific resources are entirely different from the technical skills of safety personnel in the Department of Industrial Relations, and
WHEREAS to be most effective in occupational disease prevention, health personnel must operate as an inter-disciplinary professional team utilizing the resources of the entire Department of Health including industrial sanitation, laboratory services, hazardous substance control, communicable disease, genetic disease, cancer control, pesticide safety, chronic disease, and radiation safety, and
WHEREAS occupational health is a preventive medical program under the direction of occupational health specialists supported by a team of paramedical occupational health experts and laboratory services, and
WHEREAS the transfer of the occupational health program into the Department of Industrial Relations would separate occupational health personnel from essential sources of professional expertise, credibility, technical and scientific resources, as well as detract from effective methods of operation, and
Page two

Concerning Occupational Health

WHEREAS the legislative mandate for occupational health is in the Department of Health as specified in Section 429.11 and 429.12 of the Health and Safety Code, and at the local level this responsibility is also vested in the local health department as specified in Section 25960 of the Health and Safety Code, and the State Labor Code also requires the State Department of Health to be responsible for the technical and professional aspects of occupational health in the CAL-OSHA Act, and

WHEREAS the Little Hoover Commission concluded in its January, 1976 report that CAL-OSHA's present organization should not be altered, and

WHEREAS occupational disease prevention is presently experiencing a rapid development as an important component of OSHA, and

WHEREAS the occupational health program produces benefits that the entire population may enjoy, such as the elimination of environmental contaminants from the work place and subsequently the entire environment, and

WHEREAS a new Director of Health Services will be selected in the near future and should have the opportunity to review programs within the new department and participate in decisions about where various programs should be placed administratively,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Supervisors of Mariposa County hereby urge the Governor to delay his decision on the proposed transfer of occupational health to the Department of Industrial Relations until a new Director of Health Services is selected and is invited to participate in the decision-making process on this issue, and be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Concerning Occupational Health

Senators Zenovich, Waters, Johnson, Assemblyman Maddy, Jim Mulligan, Dept. of Health Services, CSAC, and RCRC.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa this 21st. day of March, 1978, by the following vote:

AYES: Clark, Long, Owings, Dalton, Weber
NOES: None
NOT VOTING: None
ABSENT: None

CARROL N. CLARK, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

ELLEN BRONSON, County Clerk & Ex Officio Clerk of the Board

ATTEST: