RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-137

MEETING: March 16, 2021

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Dallin Kimble, County Administrative Officer

RE: CDPH Outreach Letter

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve a Letter to COVID-19 Task Force Representative Kerry West.

The Board has recently received a request from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to, "get some situational awareness about all things Covid, how dispensation is going, [Third Party Administrator] transition, if there are any vulnerable communities that need a little more outreach, what's going well, what holes need to be plugged, all the good stuff." The Board discussed this request at its regular meeting on March 9 and directed staff to draft a reply that could be signed by all members of the Board. This action is to facilitate the signature of all board members.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The above-mentioned request was received via email to the clerk of the board on March 2, 2021.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:
Response letter (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Miles Menetrey, District V Supervisor
SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Sweeney, Long, Forsythe, Menetrey
March 16th, 2021

Ms. Kerri West  
Kerri.West@cdph.ca.gov

Subject: Response to COVID-19 Task Force Request

Dear Ms. West,

Thank you for your request for situational awareness regarding vaccination in Mariposa County. We appreciate your interest and discussed your inquiry at a recent board meeting so we can respond together. We’re proud to report that our staff are doing a tremendous job with outreach and vaccinations and we would like to maintain the momentum we have built unimpeded by a third party administrator or the MyTurn program.

The Board of Supervisors is very pleased with the way our staff have managed pandemic response, including vaccinations. Through our Joint Information Center (JIC), we’re reaching out to all corners of the county and every demographic. We have held vaccination clinics in several communities and have a strong partnership with Yosemite National Park to provide services in areas that are farther from our offices.

Our results speak for themselves. Mariposa County has consistently been a tier or two less restrictive in the Blueprint for a Safer Economy than our neighboring counties. As of this writing, more than 20 percent of Mariposa County residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine. We are vaccinating individuals from priority groups the state has identified in proportion with our community or in favor of those groups that have been prioritized.

Mariposa County residents are also pleased with the County’s response. Members of this Board have heard many comments about how professional, friendly, efficient and easy it is for our residents to get vaccinated. We are encouraged to see so many of our friends and neighbors supporting our efforts, receiving the vaccine, and volunteering to staff many positions in the vaccine clinics.

Given the momentum we have built, our consistent performance above what we have observed around the state, and our public’s satisfaction with the services we are delivering, we are very concerned about any unnecessary changes that would disrupt the processes we have established. In our view, adding a third party administrator only adds another layer of
bureaucracy to a process we have worked to streamline. A third party administrator will make it more difficult, not less, to vaccinate individuals in our community. We don’t see a benefit to this proposal in Mariposa County and would prefer the ability to opt out and continue to rely on our staff who have already done so well.

Likewise, we are opposed to using MyTurn until it has completed development and is acceptable to our public health officer. Many software implementations take several months before they are fully developed and running smoothly. We’d prefer to continue with the scheduling process we have developed, which is working well, at least until MyTurn is fully developed and implemented.

Thank you again for your interest and willingness to reach out for feedback. Please feel free to reach out to our public health officer, Eric Sergienko, or county administrative officer, Dallin Kimble, with further questions. We are encouraged at signs that the pandemic may finally be slowing, including our recent move to the orange tier, and look forward to gathering again soon with friends and loved ones. Until then, please accept our best wishes for your continued health and success.

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I
Tom Sweeney, District II
Marshall Long, District III
Wayne Forsythe, District IV
Miles Menetrey, District V