



**Mariposa County Recovers**

**Interim Project Plan for Recovery After the Detwiler Fire**

**6 September 2017**

Executive Summary

DRAFT

Partners in the Recovery

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

Mariposa County Agencies

Mariposa County Administrative Office

Mariposa County Assessor's Office

Mariposa County Auditor

Mariposa County Sheriff's Office, Office of Emergency Services

Department of Human Services

Department of Public Works

Health Department

Planning Department

Building Department

Mariposa County Unified School District

Mariposa County Volunteer Organizations

Volunteer Organization Active in Disaster (VOAD)

Mariposa Community Foundation

Alliance for Community Transformation

United Methodist Church

Habitat for Humanity

The Relief Center

New Life Church

Greeley Hill Church

Catheys Valley Church

First Baptist Church

The Grove

Mariposa County Professional Societies/Groups

Mariposa Board of Realtors

Rotary

California State Agencies

Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)

California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

Federal Agencies

Small Business Administration (SBA)

Paul Bockrath, Preparative Consulting, assisted with both the development of this plan and the County's Emergency Operations Plan

## Planning for Recovery – An Introduction

In any endeavor, it is beneficial to have a plan that describes the current situation, what the desired outcome is to improve the current situation, what objectives are needed to achieve that outcome, the resources needed to meet those objectives, and a timeline to achieve those objectives. This is especially true in this endeavor, planning for the recovery from the devastating Detwiler Fire in Mariposa County. This plan will lay out where we, as a county, are in the recovery process and what steps and resources are needed to return us to a “new normal”. We recognize that given the extent of destruction and disruption caused by the fire, the loss of power, and evacuations needed to ensure safety that things are not likely to return to what they were, but what we hope through this plan and the efforts of those involved that we will build a better and more resilient Mariposa.

### Situation

On July 16, 2017 a wildland fire started in Hunter’s Valley, Mariposa County, approximately 15 miles north-northwest of Mariposa townsite. The rapidly expanding fire was not contained by initial attack and escaped containment efforts several times over the following 12 days. On the third day of the fire, California Interagency Incident Management Team 4 assumed control of fire management activities. At the peak of the incident, over 5,000 firefighters and support staff were involved in containment efforts. At the time of this writing, the fire is 81,826 acres and at 97% containment.

Parallel with the expanding fire and the efforts to control it, the county responded to ensure the safety of its residents and visitors. A series of evacuation orders were issued for the expanding areas at threat from the fire, including the towns of Mariposa and Coulterville. This involved the efforts of the Sheriff’s Office, Search and Rescue, and the Health Department in notifying residents and identifying those at higher risk and needing assistance with evacuation. Parallel with this, the Department of Human Services notified their at risk clients in the areas being evacuated. The Sheriff’s Office and Public Works ensured areas were closed off to traffic. The Sheriff’s Office also used the California State Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement to deploy law enforcement resources from Region V to assist with evacuations and security in evacuated area. At the peak of evacuations, over 5900 people were under orders to evacuate.

In order to support county operations, the County EOC activated on July 17 at the Mariposa County Sheriff’s Office. Initially staffed at level 3 activation, it elevated to a level 2 activation on July 18, remaining there until July 27. The County throughout the response conducted law enforcement, evacuation, and road closure activities, conducted initial damage assessments, provided behavioral health support, supported health services activities in the operational area, and supported mass care activities in the adjacent counties including providing behavioral health services and health services support.

To support the evacuations, the Red Cross initially established an evacuation center on the night of the 16<sup>th</sup>, but relocated that evening to Mariposa Elementary School to operate a shelter. Due to the ongoing fire threat, the shelter was relocated to Oakhurst on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup>. As the evacuated population continued to grow, additional shelters were opened. A total of eight shelters were opened in response to the Detwiler Fire. At its peak, three shelters were operated in Oakhurst, one in Planada, and one in Sonora. Unusual for Mariposa County, over 300 persons were sheltered at the peak of the fire. As

well as those staying in shelters, an unknown number of persons used Red Cross services while staying in vehicles and campers adjacent to the shelters. In addition, the Red Cross provided bulk distribution centers, disaster assessment, disaster case management, and mental health services.

In addition to CALFIRE's extensive role in the fire control efforts, numerous state agencies responded to support Mariposa County's efforts in managing the consequences of the fire. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) responded to both the field and the EOC providing guidance on both response and recovery. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) conducted road closures and enhanced patrols bringing in additional units from outside of the county. The California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) supported road closures, provided damage assessments, and conducted route clearance and road repair on State Highway routes in the impacted areas. An Ambulance Strike Team was requested through and provided by the Regional Disaster Medical Health Coordinator of the California Emergency Medical Services Agency (CalEMSA). California Department of Social Services provided guidance on shelter management and deployed a Functional Assessment Service Team.

The last mandatory evacuation order was lifted on July 28. All evacuation advisories remaining in the county were lifted on July 29.

To date, 204 structures have been identified as having been damaged or destroyed with 74 residences destroyed and 14 residences damaged; 108 outbuildings destroyed and 8 damaged; and one commercial structure destroyed. It is likely that additional structures will be identified as assessment teams gather additional data. Agricultural land including pasture, farms, and forest were burned over and will likely require restoration. Nineteen head of cattle and a squab dovecote were lost. Critical infrastructure was minimally impacted; however phone service to residents in Mount Bullion, Bear Valley, and Hunters Valley was damaged by the fire but has been restored. There was damage to roads including county roads and state highways. There was also damage to the airport caused by firefighting activities. Some of this damage was immediately repaired to allow for resumption of traffic, but additional repairs will be required. The assessment of infrastructure damage is ongoing.

In addition to the areas directly impacted by the fire, much of Mariposa County was without power as PG&E shut down transmission in order to reduce risk to firefighters. More than 9,000 customers were without power for multiple days. The lack of power stressed those who need electricity to support medical equipment such as oxygen generators. It also resulted in food losses due to lack of refrigeration and loss of water due to pumps without electricity.

Businesses were not directly impacted by fire, however, there was systematic economic loss throughout the county due to route closures and mandatory evacuations. Hotels and other businesses lost revenue due to the evacuation of Mariposa. The costs of these losses, both short and long term have not yet been estimated but will likely impact tourism which is a major revenue stream to the County.

It is likely that both the physical and mental well-being of the residents have been diminished by the fire. Some of these are directly related to the fire such as respiratory problems secondary to smoke while others are from the stress of relocation and uncertainty. Although further investigation is required, it has been noted that there was a larger than normal number of out of hospital cardiac arrests in the county.

As the county transitions towards recovery, initial activities have taken place to facilitate this:

A Local Emergency was declared on July 18 and a supporting resolution passed by the County Board of Supervisors on July 25.

A State Emergency Proclamation was requested and approved by Governor Brown on July 18.

A Local Public Health Emergency was declared by the County Health Officer on 21 July and approved by the County Board of Supervisors on 25 July.

Local assistance centers (LAC) were conducted at both Mariposa County High School and the Greeley Hill Community Center. The demand at the high school was such that a second day was held to provide services to an additional 300 residents. The Greeley Hill LAC was equally well attended with residents from the area as well as those from South County who had been unable to attend the LAC in Mariposa.

Both the Department of Human Services and the American Red Cross have provided behavioral health and case management to those affected by the fire.

CalOES, in conjunction with the Environmental Health Division of the Health Department, CalRecycle, and DTSC, is moving forward on a debris removal program to mitigate the impact of hazardous waste from destroyed homes. They have established an office in Mariposa to coordinate the efforts. Their stated intentions are to begin debris removal on or about 21 August and to complete activities by October.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) declared a disaster in Mariposa County on 24 July after having received a request from the Director of CalOES. They established two Disaster Loan Outreach Centers in Mariposa County to make available low-interest federal disaster loans to businesses and residents affected by the Detwiler Fire. The disaster declaration makes SBA assistance available in Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus and Tuolumne counties.

## The Recovery Plan

This plan is intended to provide an overarching guide to the recovery from the Detwiler Fire. It is not, by any means, complete or perfect, but meant to start us and keep us going towards recovery. It is meant to be modified and revised as we identify new goals or new concerns. As much as practicable, it adheres to the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS).

### Recovery Director's Intent

To establish and maintain a recovery effort that includes both governmental and non-governmental entities, including private businesses, that effectively and efficiently restores Mariposa County to its prior state while building a more resilient and fire-wise community.

### Desired End State

By the end of the recovery process, Mariposa County will have rebuilt or restored housing to all of those who have lost housing; maintained or improved the vitality of all sectors of the economy, including agriculture and tourism; restored all damaged or destroyed infrastructure; and improved the ability of the county to prevent and respond to large-scale fires.

### Overarching Goals

Coordinate the efforts of county agencies, special districts and other government entities within the county, state and federal agencies, businesses, and non-governmental organizations to conduct recovery operations in and around Mariposa County in response to the Detwiler Fire of July 2017.

Maintain, during the recovery period, the engagement of all relevant parties in the recovery process, to sustain the recovery efforts until the desired end state is achieved.

To restore, where possible, the housing and businesses lost during the Detwiler Fire to or better than the conditions that existed prior to the fire.

Provide, as a county government, those recovery services inherent within the authorities and responsibilities of the county government and its departments.

Coordinate with and foster those recovery services that reside within state and federal government, and within the private or non-governmental sectors to ensure unity of effort, efficient use of resources, and allowing for the best possible outcomes.

Track finances for the recovery operation, where possible applying for funds to reduce the financial impact for the county and its residents

### Overarching Objectives

Establish a recovery organization for the length of the recovery with an identified director to lead all county government efforts and that coordinates with other organizations engaged in recovery from the Detwiler Fire in order to achieve unity of effort, enhance efficiency, and reduce redundancies.

Establish and maintain a recovery planning process for the length of the recovery that includes a recovery plan, incident action plans for defined operational periods, and mechanisms to evaluate the recovery process by tracking completed actions and achievement of established milestones.

Maintain community awareness of recovery efforts and opportunities by conducting ongoing public information operations including social media, community meetings, media outreach, and other means of communicating with the public.

Implement a virtual Joint Information Center (JIC) by August 18 with representatives from the Disaster Recovery Functions (DRF) and establish a unified recovery effort messaging plan for the period of the recovery.

DRAFT

## **Organization for Recovery**

The county has established a recovery organization led by the County Administrative Officer as the Director for Recovery (figure 1). This position is analogous to the Emergency Operations Center Director. As such, the Director coordinates all county resources needed to ensure recovery. The Director also serves as the connection point between policy makers and the recovery organization. In order to support the recovery organization, the Director has a staff that provides public information, emergency management, finance, and planning functions. Unlike a response to an incident, it is recognized that these functions will not have a full-time role in the recovery, but will be available as needed.

Crucial within the organization are the operations that will carry out the activities needed to recover. These operations are conducted by three Disaster Recovery Functions and their supporting groups and task forces:

- Development Services (led by Sarah Williams, Planning Director) – Includes building, planning, environmental health, economic development, agriculture, chamber of commerce, etc.
- Health and Social Needs (led by Chevon Kothari, Director of Human Services) – health, human services, non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations, etc.
- Public Infrastructure (led by Mike Healy, Director of Public Works)

As above, both the Development Services and Health and Social Needs Disaster Recovery Functions have both county agencies and non-governmental organizations involved. In particular, the Resources and Distribution Committee within the Health and Social Needs Disaster Recovery Function is largely made up of non-governmental organizations harnessing their capabilities to do case management, conduct fund raising, provide a fiduciary role, and coordinate warehousing and distribution of material goods. The county government will still provide an *ex officio* role within the committee and provide staff as needed to conduct and support its operations.

## **Mariposa County Disaster Recovery Functions (DRFs)**

The Recovery Functions described below address the critical items that need to be addressed in order to return a community to viability after a disaster. In both the National Disaster Recovery Framework and in the Recovery Annex of the State of California's Emergency Operations Plan, there are six named Disaster Recovery Functions. Given the resources and staffing available within the community, it was decided to consolidate these six into three functions within the Mariposa recovery organization.

### **Development Services Disaster Recovery Function (DRF)**

Mission: Support and build the recovery capacities and community planning resources needed for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of destroyed and damaged housing and other structures. Sustain and/or rebuild businesses and employment and develop economic opportunities that result in sustainable and economically resilient communities following a major disaster event. Restore and/or rebuild farm and ranch operations to preserve the agriculture economy.

## **GOALS**

- Create a modified regulatory environment where property owners can establish temporary housing and build permanent housing while also protecting the public health and safety of the residents within a declared disaster area.
- Implement programs that will allow for the safe and timely rebuilding and/or repair of houses and other structures on property that had either been destroyed or damaged.
- Work with state and federal agencies to identify and implement disaster aid programs for individuals and businesses, including at home businesses and agriculture.
- Identify changes in demographics that may be related to the fire.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Develop a draft urgency ordinance to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors before the end of August that would permit temporary housing to be established either on site or off site while reconstruction was pending or underway on the site of a damaged or destroyed house.
- Work with CalOES and CalRecycle staff to identify other regulatory concerns associated with reconstruction prior to the beginning of building projects.
- Conduct, in conjunction with CalOES, CalRecycle, and their contractors, a debris removal operation that would remove all debris from the site of a damaged or substantially damaged property and create a safe environment for reconstruction, with the intent to complete debris removal from all sites for which permission was given before mid-October.
- Identify and contact, in conjunction with CalOES, the Assessor's Office, and other data sources, all property owners with destroyed or substantially damaged properties, provide them with information on the debris removal project and, for those interested in participating, obtain a Right of Entry form, by no later than mid-August.
- Ensure the safety of potential occupants by conducting building inspections of damaged and destroyed structures to assess the extent of damage and as necessary "red tag" structures before occupancy and completed before mid-August.
- Update GIS maps of the impacted areas of the county on an ongoing basis to provide timely information to recovery operations for the duration of the recovery.
- Reduce time required to issue a building permit by ensuring shared data amongst development service; preparing permit applications based on existing data; researching for parcel legality issues; and by creating a prioritization scheme for properties lost due to the fire. Implement this process as soon as possible, but no later than mid-August and continue with this process until recovery is determined to be completed.
- Prepare an information sheet prior to the end of August to advise the Board of Supervisors on potential fee waivers to ensure financial compliance, while reducing the impact on both the property owner and county finance. As part of this, develop a mechanism that allows for the waiving or reduction of fees for identified property owners.
- Distribute water tanks to eligible property owners through the established contractor supporting the dry well program prior to the end of August.
- Provide, through available Farm Service Agency programs, financial assistance to ranchers who have experienced feed, stock, or infrastructure loss due to the Detwiler fire.

- Provide, with assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, erosion control, sedimentation control, and revegetation to impacted areas.
- Adjust, as determined by the extent of damage, the assessed value of properties impacted by the fire.

Organization: The Development Services DRF includes representatives from the following departments: Planning, Building, Health, Assessor-Recorder, Agriculture, Human Services, Clerk of the Board, Economic Development, UC Extension Service.

#### Health and Social Needs DRF

Mission: Restore the public health, healthcare, and social services networks to support the health and well-being of affected individuals and communities as well as to promote community resilience following a major disaster event. Coordinate the provision of needs to those impacted by the disaster including access to care, behavioral health support, access to housing, and addressing unmet needs.

#### **GOALS:**

- Address the social needs of Mariposa County residents impacted by the Detwiler fire including obtaining or coordinating temporary housing, bulk goods, and financial recovery.
- Establish a mechanism that allows for the equitable distribution of disaster services and goods.
- Provide behavioral and spiritual services to support the emotional, behavioral, and spiritual needs of Mariposa County residents impacted by the fire.
- Track the impacts on health and well-being, both physical and psychological, which may have been caused or worsened by the fire.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Provide, by no later than September 1st, disaster case management of individuals and families affected by the fire to provide linkages to established resources and to identify unmet needs from the time of entry into the case management system until the individual or family has resolved disaster related impacts as is most practicable.
- Conduct fiduciary functions to ensure lawful management of funds donated to the recovery effort for the period of the recovery with a means to dispense unobligated funds at the end of the recovery.
- Provide guidance to entities conducting fundraising operations to ensure accountability and legality of these operations and to provide coordination of these operations to reduce conflicting schedules and inefficiencies.
- Create and implement, by August 31st, a system that will track donated materials to provide information to donors and managers on items that are in demand, items that are in stock, and recipients who have received donated goods and services.
- Manage, as needed, warehousing operations to maintain donated goods, to reduce property loss and proper distribution of goods.

- Create, by August 15, and maintain in conjunction with case management and with the development services DRF, a database of housing needs and resources to coordinate housing solutions for those displaced by the fire.
- Develop and implement by August 18 an ongoing, coordinated communication strategy with the virtual Joint Information Center in order to ensure that community members are aware of services available to them
- Create and implement, by September 15th, behavioral health tools and strategies to work with those both directly and indirectly impacted by the fire.
- Determine, with assistance from the California Department of Public Health, the mental and physical health impacts of the fire by conducting a rapid assessment of available EMS, Emergency Department and clinic data by September 1, and collection of health data from disaster cases by October 1.
- Assess the midterm impacts to mental and physical health by conducting a survey sample of county residents by November 1.
- Ensure, through coordinated efforts of the Health Task Force and case managers, access to behavioral, spiritual, and health care resources by persons who experienced lost or damaged property due to the fire for the time that they are involved with case management.

Organization: In order to maintain a manageable span of control and allow for efficient coordination of activities, the Health and Social Needs DRF have established numerous Groups and Task Forces to manage the full extent of activities that they are involved in (figure 2). There are three groups that report directly to the Health and Social Needs DRF: Resources and Distribution, Behavioral and Spiritual Health, and Health.

#### Infrastructure Systems DRF

Missions: Support infrastructure owners and operators in their efforts to achieve recovery goals relating to the public engineering of California's infrastructure systems following a major disaster event.

#### **GOALS**

- Ensure the safety and wellbeing of those using Mariposa County Facilities and Infrastructure Post Detwiler Fire Disaster Event
- Ensure the safe restoration of infrastructure elements to pre-disaster condition
- Submit to CalOES timely Cost Reimbursement Documentation, ongoing
- Maintain safety awareness by staff throughout this task assessment project.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Conduct an Infrastructure Safety Inspection that includes the Identification, Inspection and Assessment of each Public Facility and Infrastructure System<sup>1</sup> used and or located near Detwiler Fire Fighting efforts by August 23, 2017
- Submit detailed Facility Safety Condition Assessment and where applicable initial repair cost analysis by August 23, 2017
- Retain the services of a Professional Arborist to identify hazardous trees located in or adjacent to the Public Right-of-Way by August 30, 2017
- Inspect all Safety facets of potentially impacted roadway infrastructure<sup>2</sup> by September 15, 2017
- Submit detailed report of roadway infrastructure damage with preliminary cost estimate by October 1, 2017
- Accept incremental Arborist Reports detailing damaged trees to be removed for work order submission to contractor for removal execution, ongoing
- Contract for Tree Removal Services for Public Right-of-Way Trees by October 1, 2017
- Where applicable initiate safety repair of Right-of-Way damage associated with tree removal activities

---

<sup>1</sup> Facility Assessment safety assessments shall include structure damage and cosmetic appearance damage caused by heat directly related to the fire and assessment of Systems used for Fire Fighting and Suppression efforts e.g. well pumps, motors, hydrants and water delivery systems operated by the County and or County operated Utilities pressed into service.

<sup>2</sup> Roadway Infrastructure safety assessments include traveled roadway surface, drainage systems, signage and markings, guardrail and traffic protective devices and areas where due to the fire loss of slope vegetation occurred and as such causes a threat to the Right-of-Way.

## Recovery Timeline

Date	Activity	Participating Agencies	Outcomes
<b>August 1</b>	Debris Removal Office Established	CalOES, CalRecycle, Environmental Health	Office ready to open for debris removal operations
<b>August 8</b>	Debris Removal operation begins assessing damaged/destroyed home	CalOES, CalRecycle, Environmental Health	Surveys of damaged and destroyed homes completed, prioritization of debris removal sites sequenced, contractor in place to commence operations
<b>August 15</b>	Housing needs database created and populated	Health and Social Needs DRF, Housing and Case Management Task Forces	Will provide a roster of housing requirements for the population that was displaced by the fire
<b>August 16</b>	Ad hoc disaster case managers available	Human Services, Alliance	Disaster case managers will be assigned to individual cases and using a standardized intake form.
<b>August 18</b>	Most (>90%) of property owners with damaged or destroyed homes have been advised of the debris removal program	CalOES, CalRecycle, Environmental Health	Outreach activities in order to gain permission from property owners will continue, with the intent at this time that most property owners have been advised of this program.
<b>August 18</b>	Establish a virtual Joint Information Center	PIO, Public information representatives from the DRFs	

<b>August 21</b>	Debris removal contractor in place to begin operations	Contractor, CalOES, CalRecycle, Environmental Health	Building sites where the owner has signed the right of entry will be free of hazardous materials and ready for construction to start
<b>August 23</b>	Infrastructure Inspection Completed	Public Works	A Facility Safety Condition Assessment is submitted along with associated costs
<b>August 30</b>	Hazard Tree identification completed	Contractor, Public Works	Trained arborist has evaluated trees in or adjacent to public rights of way and prepared an cost estimate for removal/mitigation
<b>August 31</b>	Material goods database in place	Donation Management Task Force	Will track goods donated to the various NGOs receiving goods allowing for matching of goods with needs.
<b>August 31</b>	Information sheet prepared for the Board of Supervisors on potential fee waivers	Development Services DRF	Prepare a briefing for Board of Supervisors on fee collection associated with permitting replacement structures that ensures financial compliance. Include a mechanism that allows for the waiving or reducing of fees
<b>September 1</b>	Complete rapid assessment of ED, EMS, and clinic data	Health, CDPH	Will assess the mental and physical health impacts of the fire
<b>September 15</b>	Dedicated disaster case	Case Management Task	Disaster case workers,

	managers in place	Force, Resources and Distribution Committee	locally hired but trained by UMCOR <sup>3</sup> in case management
<b>September 15</b>	Behavioral/Spiritual Health strategies and tools in place	Behavioral/Spiritual Health Committee	Standardized strategies in place across the spectrum of behavioral, emotional, and spiritual health resources to ensure consistency and availability of services
<b>September 23-25</b>	CDPH Disaster Epidemiologists site visit	Health Committee, CDPH Emergency Preparedness Team	Assess the impacts of the fire on the health, both physical and behavioral, on the residents of Mariposa County
<b>October 1</b>	CalOES/CalRecycle-funded debris removal completed	CalOES, CalRecycle, Environmental Health	Sites remediated under the CalOES/CalRecycle debris removal program will be ready for building construction
<b>October 1</b>	Detailed report of roadway infrastructure damage submitted	Public Works	Preliminary costs calculated allowing for project budgeting, planning and management for repair and reconstruction.
<b>October 1</b>	Complete collection and analysis of health data from those impacted by the fire	Health, CDPH	Will provide population level data on those with damaged or destroyed homes and help determine need.

<sup>3</sup> “The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering around the globe. UMCOR’s work includes programs and projects in disaster response, health, sustainable agriculture, food security, relief supplies, and more.” <http://www.umcor.org/>

**November 1**

Survey of county performed to assess impacts to physical and behavioral health

Health Task Force, CDPH

This will capture health information on the population of the county including those who were evacuated, lost power, or were otherwise impacted.

DRAFT

Figure 1  
 Detwiler Fire  
 Draft Recovery Organization 8/5/17  
 Eric Sergienko, PSC

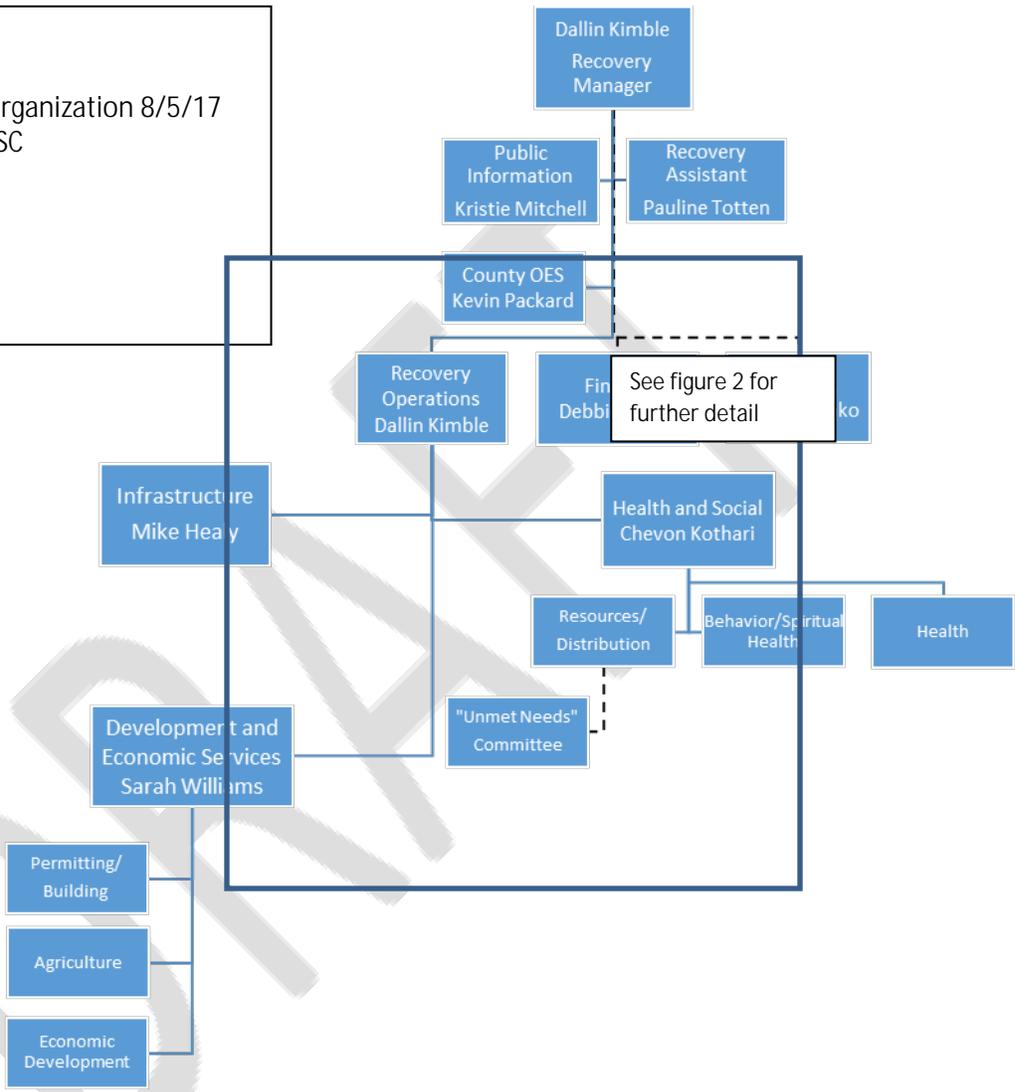


Figure 2  
Detwiler Fire  
Draft Recovery Organization  
Human and Social Needs DRF 8/5/17  
Eric Serglenko, PSC

