



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Health and Human Services · (209) 966-2000



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-581

MEETING: October 1, 2019
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Chevon Kothari, Health and Human Services Director
RE: Public Safety Power Shutoff Plan

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve the Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Plan for Mariposa County.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

This proposed Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Plan outlines procedures that guide a collaborative response by the Mariposa County government, special districts, and allied agencies in the Mariposa County Operational Area to the threat of or actual de-energization of electrical systems due to extreme fire danger conditions. This is a supporting plan to the Mariposa County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).

The risk of wildfire increases when several factors combine-these include high temperatures, high sustained and peak winds, as well as critically low humidity. During these conditions, electrical transmission and distribution lines may ignite fires if they are downed by winds and/or trees. To reduce the chance of accidental fire ignition in certain areas, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) has stated that they may de-energize electrical grids or blocks off an area(s) in advance of or during periods of heightened risk conditions.

De-energization of electrical systems in affected areas may pose a life-safety risk to residents and impact other infrastructure systems. De-energization may also impact the capabilities of local agencies to respond to wildfire due to loss of alert & warning and public information communications systems including internet and cellular towers, inability to monitor or maintain water supplies, and a loss of traffic control systems that could support evacuation. This plan is intended to provide guidance to Mariposa County departments and public safety agencies in how to prepare for and respond to these events.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

The Board can choose not to approve the PSPS plan, however, it will hinder the Departmental response to a PSPS event.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Resolution - Action Requested 2019-581

It is estimated that costs associated with Plan implementation will occur should an outage last for multiple days and necessitate Mariposa County HHSA to open an overnight shelter. Funding for these operations is currently being explored through our State Partners.

ATTACHMENTS:

Mariposa County PSPS Plan August 2019v2 (PDF)

Community Wildfire Safety Program Overview Mariposa County - reduced size (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

SECONDER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey