

DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS

County of Lassen



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2017/161

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May 16, 2017

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Public Works Department
SUBJECT: Use of Volunteers for Emergency Repairs

RECOMMENDATION: 1) Receive report 2) Provide any direction to staff.

DISCUSSION: Back in March/April the Board of Supervisors was approached as to the possibility of utilizing volunteer labor/equipment to assist with the repairs of some of the damaged roadways located throughout the County.

While this appears to be a benefit to the County and definitely a much appreciated offer to assist with the extra workload, it is not recommended for the following reasons:

One of the greatest drawbacks would be the potential liability the County could face utilizing volunteers and equipment usage. The type/condition of the equipment and the experience level of the volunteer operator could all become liability issues for the County.

In addition, the County could face Worker Compensation and Union issues by utilizing volunteers rather than licensed contractors or County employees to complete the work. As public works projects are subject to prevailing wage and Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) requirements any work completed outside County forces should be completed by licensed bonded contractors who are registered with DIR.

Lastly, supervision of temporary employees/equipment operation would require supervision by the already limited road crew to insure that the work product being completed by the volunteers was being completed to the required work standards.

Therefore, volunteer/equipment operators to be utilized on road related emergency repairs projects is not recommended.

ALTERNATIVES: None

FINANCIAL IMPACT: To be determined

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: None.

DEPARTMENT APPROVAL: _____

REVIEWED FOR AGENDA: _____