



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Department Name: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: 06-02-2020
Placement: D-1
Estimated Time: 1.5 hours
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Office
Director(s): Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD, Director of Public Health
Contact Info: Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO
Nancy Anderson, Assistant CEO

SUBJECT: Update on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: NA

Other Concurrence:

As to form: NA

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file a brief update on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Santa Barbara County's response and operations;
- b) Provide any direction, as appropriate; and
- c) Determine that the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because pursuant to sections 153378(b)(4) and 15378(b)(5) the recommended actions consist of organizational, administrative or fiscal activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary

Staff will provide the most recent information on the status of COVID-19 cases and the County's response at the Board of Supervisors' meeting.

Staff has provided updates to the Board on the status of COVID-19 every week since March 10, and has conducted press conferences every weekday. Circumstances and number of cases in the County are changing daily with the most updated information on the Public Health information portal at <https://publichealthsb.org>.

Discussion

In order to minimize the impact of COVID-19, the County of Santa Barbara has encouraged the safe and speedy recovery of businesses, restaurants, retail and other community entities that were required to close or curtail operations under the State of California's "Stay at Home" orders. On May 20 2020, the State of California Public Health Department accepted the County's attestation to move further into Stage 2 of the Governor's Resiliency Roadmap for reopening the economy. This occurred one day following the Board's support for the attestation.

The County was poised to respond quickly through its publication of the Santa Barbara County Reopening in Safe Environment, or RISE Guide on May 15, 2020. Within the framework of the Governor's Resilience Roadmap, this serves as a companion guide to support the implementation of the roadmap for phased reopening and was developed by experts who live and work in the region, supported by feedback from all sectors of the community.

On May 20, 2020 the County launched a Self-Certification Attestation process on-line for businesses to reopen under Stage 2. Businesses are required to be familiar with State Industry Guidelines, County Health Orders and the RISE Guide, complete a Prevention Plan, Industry Checklist and self-certify on-line.

In addition, the County developed the Small Business and Community Partnership Enhancement Program (SBCPEP), a clear, quick path and parameters for businesses and other entities to operate temporarily outdoors to accommodate social distancing.

- Phase 1 of the program allows operations in the adjacent County roadway rights-of way (sidewalks and roadways) and is administered by County Public Works Department. This phase of the program began on May 20, 2020 through the Director of Emergency Services Emergency Rule #1 for COVID-19 emergency and temporarily authorizes the Santa Barbara County Public Works Director to issue encroachment permits to businesses and community entities that reopen and resume operations in County roadway rights-of-way to allow for adequate social distancing during operations. Adoption of an urgency ordinance to confirm and supersede this action will be considered by the Board of Supervisors under the Public Works agenda item.
- Phase 2 of the program allows for operations on adjacent private property, such as parking lots and setbacks, and will be administered by the County Planning and Community Development Department. Emergency Rule #1 excludes Phase 2 of the program. Staff will return to the Board in mid-June after presentations to the County Planning Commission and Montecito Planning Commission.

Background

On March 4, 2020, the Governor of California proclaimed a health emergency due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 11, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic.

On March 12, 2020 the Public Health Officer and Public Health Director declared a local health emergency for COVID-19. That same day the Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a local emergency. At that time, the County did not have any confirmed cases. On March 16, 2020, the Public Health Department reported the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Santa Barbara County. On March 17, 2020, the local declaration and proclamation were ratified by the Board of Supervisors.

On March 19, 2020, the Governor issued Executive N-33-20 which directed “shelter in place” for Californians to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the public health of residents.

On May 20, 2020, the State approved the County to accelerate through the State’s Stage 2 phase of the Resilience Roadmap. The Public Health Officer issued Health Order 2020-8.2 on May 21, 2020 to accompany the approval by the State.

The County’s objectives in this public health emergency response to COVID-19 are as follows:

1. Flatten the curve – reduce spread of infection and deaths
2. Reduce overload to health care system
3. Protect health care workers and frontline responders
4. Protect other essential workers
5. Assist the most vulnerable affected by the pandemic
6. Assist with economic mitigation, reopening and recovery
7. Inform the public with accurate and timely information

Emergency Operations Center. The response effort is coordinated through the County’s Emergency Operations Center, focused on the Public Health’s efforts to mitigate the infection and reduce an overload to the health care system. The EOC is assisted by the regional Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) and is supporting several teams and task forces on homeless sheltering, vulnerable(senior) populations, donation and volunteer assistance, scarce medical resources and economic and community recovery. The EOC is also spearheading multi-government workforce coordination to provide workers needed in the emergency response effort.

County Department Operations. County departments have activated their Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs) and are prioritizing essential services, although other non-essential work also continues. To comply with the Governor’s Executive Order to shelter-in-place, a majority of public counters are closed and alternative methods have been provided for the public to access County services. (A list is available on the County’s website). All County employees are Disaster Service Workers and have been instructed to continue to report to work (on-site or tele-working) unless unable to do so. Departments have been instructed to follow health safety protocols for COVID-19 for any employees on-site.

Human Resources also implemented new leave policies, in anticipation of federal legislation regarding emergency employee sick leave and family leave, and developed an “emergency worker match” program to match employee and mutual aid volunteer skills with needed positions in the response.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This agenda item is for information and administrative purposes only. There are no current budget impacts associated with this report.

Authored by:

Mona Miyasato, CEO