



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: 04-07-20
Placement: D-1
Estimated Time: 30 min
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
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update

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>.

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.

Discussion

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 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:

Financial impacts to County government include (1) costs of the response operations and (2) loss of economically-sensitive revenue (such as sales taxes and transient occupancy tax). The preliminary estimate of revenue loss to County government for the current fiscal year (projected to June 30, 2020) is

estimated at \$4.5 million to the General Fund. The cost to other special revenue funds is being developed. Staff is still evaluating the cost impact to next fiscal year's budget. The County's costs for the response operations is still too early to estimate.

Authored by:

Mona Miyasato, CEO