

**ALAMEDA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'
PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATION
COMMITTEE**

Monday, April 13, 2020

1:30 p.m.

Supervisor Keith Carson, Chair
Supervisor Wilma Chan

Location: *Board of Supervisors Chambers – Room 512 5th floor*
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Federal Legislative Update – CJ Lake

The House and Senate are currently out of session. The Senate is scheduled to return next Monday, April 20, 2020. Majority Leader Hoyer announced the House will not return until Monday, May 4, 2020. The House will be called back into session if they are needed to take action on critical legislation.

The Treasury Department went live today with the portal to access funding from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, this is the state and local stabilization fund of which the County can receive direct funding.

Additional Federal Assistance for States and Locals

Republicans continue to push for an additional \$250 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program and are hopeful Congress could take up a bill as soon as this week. Democrats have said they are supportive, but also want to include additional funding for hospitals, increase the minimum payment for SNAP, and provide additional funding to state, municipal, and county governments.
Funding for Locals

The Dem proposal would provide an additional \$150 billion in fiscal relief to states, tribes and localities. *These funds are available to be used for lost revenues.* The proposal would also allow the \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) in the CARES Act to be used for lost revenues.

Of the new \$150 billion:

- \$85 billion will go to States,
- \$53 billion to counties and cities (based on CDBG formula)
- \$12 billion to tribal governments.

Short-term Borrowing for States and Locals

On April 9, the Fed said that it will issue up to \$500 billion in loans to states and the largest local governments. The Fed has the authority to use these dollars to cover growing tax shortfalls brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and response. The Fed stopped short of agreeing to buy long-term debt.

Governors' Request for Funding

Over the weekend, NY Gov. Andrew Cuomo and MD Gov. Larry Hogan took the lead on a request on behalf of the National Governors Association seeking \$500 billion in aid for states and territories to meet budgetary shortfalls. Cuomo and Hogan said the half-trillion dollars that states need is in addition to a rescue package for local governments.

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request PAL_Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other: Federal Update**

II. State Legislative Update – Political Solutions

The Legislature and the Administration remain focused on COVID-19 management and response. The Legislature is currently adjourned under a joint COVID-related recess until May 4, 2020, legislators and staff continue working remotely on priority issues. The joint recess may extend beyond that date. The PS team continues to screen bills as they are amended and make additions to the County's bill lists by issue area.

All previously scheduled committee hearings have been postponed/cancelled during the joint recess. As hearings are rescheduled the PS team will work with County staff to determine the impacts on County priorities related to Vision 2026 and your 10X goals.

At this time, it is still unclear how bill packages, budget items, and the legislative calendar will be affected by the COVID-19 related recess.

The Senate Budget and Fiscal Review's newly created "Special Budget Subcommittee on COVID-19 Response" will hold its first hearing on Thursday at 2:00pm. The subject of the informational hearing will be a "Budget Overview of COVID-19 Response." In person attendance is strongly discouraged, for those that choose to attend, strong physical distancing guidelines will be strictly enforced.

The Assembly Budget Subcommittee 6 on Process Oversight and Program Evaluation will meet on April 20th at 10am to review the state's COVID-19 spending.

Governor Gavin Newsom

Governor Newsom announced

- Steps California is taking to protect the residents and employees of the more than 1,224 skilled nursing facilities and 7,461 residential care facilities across the state.
- Release of \$100 million to support childcare services, and to support childcare providers who are stepping up to serve essential infrastructure workers and vulnerable populations and their children during this critical time.
- Lenny Mendonca is stepping down from his posts as director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development and chair of the California High-Speed Rail Authority. Newsom's team shared Mendonca was stepping down to focus on his family and personal businesses.
- California Governor Gavin Newsom, Oregon Governor Kate Brown, and Washington Governor Jay Inslee announced an agreement on a shared vision for reopening their economies and controlling COVID-19 into the future.

Budget

The Department of Finance will be proceeding with a "workload" budget. Any new budget increases will be examined through the lens of COVID-19 response.

The PS team will continue to keep the County apprised of the situation and will provide an update on what the budget process will look like, including the schedule.

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

DHCS has published additional and/or updated guidance for providers, beneficiaries, and the public related to COVID-19. Additional updates will be posted to the DHCS COVID-19 resource page.

LAO Federal COVID-19 Response Action Series and California Fiscal Issues

The Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) has a developing resource available regarding COVID-19 federal actions affecting California. The series will include write ups on the federal emergency declaration, unemployment insurance, health care and public health, food assistance, and others. The LAO has also created a section which includes fiscal issues affecting the state.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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