

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

Monday, April 6, 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

CARES 2 Package

Over the weekend, there was a strong shift in discussions regarding the next piece of legislation in response to the pandemic. In a letter to Members of the House on Saturday, Speaker Pelosi said that Congress will begin work on a CARES 2 package, which will double down on the aid that was provided by the first CARES Act. She said that CARES 2 must go further in assisting small businesses, extending and strengthening unemployment benefits and giving families additional direct payments. There will be a large component for state and local governments, hospitals, community health centers, health systems and health workers, first responders and other providers on the frontlines. In her address, she said that she hopes to get the legislation introduced on the House floor later this month. Earlier statements by the Speaker and other Members of Congress pointed to a package that would support infrastructure and pensions, but now it seems that may be part of a later package.

State and Local Stabilization - Treasury Guidance

The Department of the Treasury is expected to release guidance on State and Local Stabilization funds this week.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits (SNAP)

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201) contains provisions to protect SNAP benefits. There are three rules that we are tracking, and that the county has commented on. The first, a rule that would make it harder for states to waive work requirements for able bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD), was scheduled to go into effect on April 1. This rule was blocked by the Families First Act, and it was also blocked by a March court order. There are still questions about when the USDA will finalize the two other rules, the first would limit “broad based categorical eligibility” which is a states' ability to automatically confer SNAP eligibility already receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits. This rule was first proposed and opened for a 60-day comment period in July 2019. The comment period was reopened in October 2019.

The second proposed rule would cap certain utility costs that help determine the level of SNAP benefits a household receives. The rule was proposed in October 2019 and opened for a 60-day comment period.

Purpose:

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

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

II. State Legislative Update – Political Solutions

The Legislature and the Administration remain focused on COVID-19 management and response. On Friday, April 3, 2020, legislative leadership announced that the Legislature will now reconvene on May 4, 2020. The Legislature is currently adjourned under a joint COVID-related recess, legislators and staff continue working remotely on priority issues. The PS team continues to screen bills as they are amended and make additions to the County's bill lists by issue area. While the Legislature is currently set to reconvene on May 4, 2020, if necessary, the joint recess may extend beyond that date. All previously scheduled committee hearings have been postponed/cancelled during the joint recess.

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 PS team continues to monitor the situation and will keep County staff apprised of any new developments.

Governor Gavin Newsom

Late Friday, April 3, 2020, Governor Newsom "signed an executive order expanding consumer protection against price gouging as California continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Governor Newsom "signed an executive order to expand protections to medical providers as they amplify the use of video chats and similar applications to provide routine and non-emergency medical appointments in an effort to minimize patient exposure to COVID-19."

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Governor Newsom announced the launch of a new website, <https://covid19supplies.ca.gov/> to get critical medical supplies to the front lines of California's fight against COVID-19. Governor Newsom also announced the COVID-19 Testing Task Force, a public-private collaboration that will work with stakeholders across the state to quickly and significantly boost California's testing capacity.

Governor Newsom praised California counties for pledge to use local authority to cancel penalties or charges for property tax non-payment related to COVID-19.

Governor Newsom signed an executive order that will facilitate childcare for children of essential critical infrastructure workers by allowing the California Department of Education and California Department of Social Services the flexibility to waive certain programmatic and administrative requirements in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Governor Newsom announced that California would help meet this moment by loaning 500 state-owned ventilators to the Strategic National Stockpile inventory. The Governor also announced that California is making progress in securing additional beds to treat COVID-19 patients and relieve pressure on the health care delivery system. The Governor also announced California has already secured up to 4,613 additional beds at alternate care sites and shuttered hospitals to care for an anticipated surge in COVID-19 patients, with even more capacity being finalized."

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 once an official word on the budget process and 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. All updates will be posted on the <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/DHCS-COVID-19-Response.aspx>

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 LAO recently launched a series of posts describing federal COVID-19 response actions and their effects on California. In the coming days, this 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.

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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