



Board of Supervisors COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KUYLER CROCKER
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: April 28, 2020

Public Hearing Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT PERSON: Samantha Ferrer PHONE: 559.636.5000

SUBJECT: Approve a letter in support of COVID-19 federal response package

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve a letter in support of a COVID-19 federal response package that provides direct and flexible funding to county governments of all size.

SUMMARY:

On March 27, 2020, Congress passed the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136) which provided \$150 billion for unanticipated expenditures for states and local governments. However, counties with populations below 500,000 were not eligible for direct funding. Instead, we are reliant upon funding provided by our state government. It is important to note that Tulare County did not receive initial Coronavirus Relief Fund efforts due to our overall population being under 500,000.

Counties play a unique role in providing community response to this pandemic. Tulare County's Public Health Lab is one of twenty-two public health labs in the state for testing COVID-19. We are responsible for the Emergency Operations Center overseeing the local response to the pandemic. We continue to provide human services to vulnerable populations and are seeing a significant increase in consumers accessing behavioral health, food assistance, and employment services and programs due to this pandemic. Tulare County continues to serve at the front lines of this crisis through increasing COVID-19 testing capacities, communicable disease contact tracing, jail management, 911 services, human and social services, veteran's services, and the "last of the first responders" with coroners and medical examiners. This is just a small list of essential functions Tulare County provides.

SUBJECT: Approve a letter in support of COVID-19 federal response package

DATE: April 28,2020

Due to the significant role counties play in the crisis, this letter would advocate for allocation of resources directly to counties as the State of California mandates the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

There is no Net County Cost to the General Fund.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

Approve a letter in support of COVID-19 federal response package is linked to the Quality of Life initiative – Promote public health and welfare, educational opportunities, natural resource management and continued improvement of environmental quality.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

Samantha Ferrer

Samantha Ferrer
Board Representative

cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment(s) Letter of Support

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVE)
A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF COVID-19) Resolution No. _____
FEDERAL RESPONSE PACKAGE) Agreement No. _____
)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____
_____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JASON T. BRITT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

Approved a letter in support of a COVID-19 federal response package that provides direct and flexible funding to county governments of all size.

April 28, 2020

Dear Tulare County Federal Delegation Members, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Kamala Harris, Representative Devin Nunes, Representative Kevin McCarthy Representative T.J. Cox:

On behalf of Tulare County, thank you for your leadership during this critical time and your efforts to address the significant health, safety and economic impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Congress negotiates a potential fourth COVID-19 response package, we urge you to provide direct and flexible funding to county governments of all sizes who are at ground-zero of this unprecedented public health and economic crisis.

In Tulare County, our Public Health Lab is one of twenty-two public health labs in the state testing for COVID-19. We are also responsible for the Emergency Operations Center overseeing the local response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to provide human services to vulnerable populations and are seeing a significant increase in consumers accessing behavioral health, food assistance, and employment services and programs due to this pandemic. Tulare County continues to serve at the front lines of this crisis through increasing COVID-19 testing capacities, communicable disease contact tracing, jail management, 911 services, human and social services, veteran's services, and the "last of the first responders" with coroners and medical examiners. This is just a small list of essential functions Tulare County provides. Given our significant role in this crisis, we strongly urge you to allocate resources directly to counties as the State of California mandates the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.

While the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136) provided \$150 billion for unanticipated expenditures for states and local governments, counties with populations below 500,000 are not eligible for direct funding and are instead at the mercy of the state – who are dealing with their own fiscal pressures. It is important to note that Tulare County falls under that population threshold and did not receive funding from initial Coronavirus Relief Fund efforts. Even a significant subset of major urban counties that are eligible for direct assistance under the Coronavirus Relief Fund will now see combined reductions of \$5.1 billion under the U.S. Treasury's guidance because many must now subtract city populations within their county boundaries, despite the fact that these counties are mandated to provide critical public health functions for their entire geographic area. At the very least, Congress could rewrite the CARES Act to require that each state must set aside a portion of its allocation, such as 10%, for local governments below 500,000 in population size.

Given the unique role of counties in our nation's public health and overall community response to this pandemic, we again respectfully urge you to support efforts to allocate

resources directly to all counties. We further urge you not to use the outdated CDBG formula for the allocation of funds to local governments.

We thank you again for your leadership during these unprecedented times. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with your team and are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,

Pete Vander Poel, Chair
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Amy Shuklian, Vice Chair
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Kuyler Crocker, District 1
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Eddie Valero, District 4
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Dennis Townsend, District 5
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

cc: David Wetmore, Carpi Clay