

**Sierra County
Board of Supervisors'
Agenda Transmittal &
Record of Proceedings**

MEETING DATE: April 16, 2020	TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Timed <input type="checkbox"/> Consent
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DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors
APPROVING PARTY: Heather Foster, Clerk of the Board
PHONE NUMBER: 530-289-3295

AGENDA ITEM: Update from County Public Health, County OES, and County Sheriff Office (“EOC Group”) on the Declared Local State of Emergency and the County Health Officer-Public Health Emergency Declaration surrounding the COVID-19 Pandemic and discussion and direction to staff on the following:

- Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) status and recommendation to the US Forest Service and PCTA
- Discussion of special events permitted or planned for 2020
- Measures proposed to be implemented to communicate community exposure concerns from visitors coming into the county
- Courtesy notification to Forest Service summer home tract permittees and recreational subdivision property owners on county activities regarding the current pandemic response

SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED: Memo Resolution Agreement Other

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A
GENERAL FUND IMPACT: No General Fund Impact
OTHER FUND:
AMOUNT: \$ N/A

ARE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL REQUIRED?

Yes, -- --
 No

IS THIS ITEM ALLOCATED IN THE BUDGET? Yes No

IS A BUDGET TRANSFER REQUIRED? Yes No

SPACE BELOW FOR CLERK’S USE

<p>BOARD ACTION:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved as amended <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No Action Taken</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Set public hearing For: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Direction to: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Continued to: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Authorization given to: _____</p>	<p>Resolution 2020- _____ Agreement 2020- _____ Ordinance _____</p> <p>Vote: Ayes: Noes: Abstain: Absent: <input type="checkbox"/> By Consensus</p>
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COMMENTS:

CLERK TO THE BOARD

DATE

April 16, 2020

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC. 20510

Honorable Kamala Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC. 20510

Honorable Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress, 1st District of California
322 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC. 20515

Subject: Rural county COVID-19 funding

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Harris, and Congressman La Malfa:

On behalf of the people of Sierra 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 California, counties operate public hospitals, local public health departments, more than 800 long-term care facilities, and 750 behavioral health departments. We are also responsible for emergency operations centers, human services, jail management, 9-1-1 services, veteran's services, and the 'last of the first responders with coroners and medical examiners, among many other essential local government functions.

In a county with just 3,000 residents, we have limited resources and funding, but have the same responsibility as all other counties to keep our citizens safe. We are quite appreciative that our communities have taken this health pandemic seriously and to date Sierra County remains just one of five California counties with no reported COVID 19 cases. While part of that is due to good fortune, no doubt responsible community members and effective local government with a concerted message and strong responsive actions have helped. **Given our role at the front lines of this crisis, we strongly urge you to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate 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. 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.

Given the unique county 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 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,

SIERRA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By:

JAMES E. BEARD
Chair

CC: California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)