

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



**3.38**

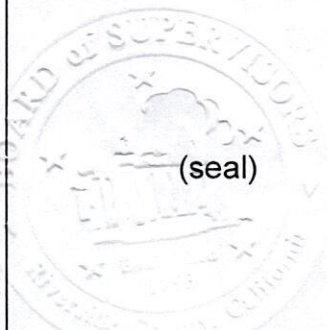
(MT 12620)

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Spiegel and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the recommendation from Supervisor Perez regarding eviction moratorium during COVID-19 pandemic and Adoption of Ordinance No. 958, is continued to Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. or as soon as possible thereafter.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full true, and correct copy of an order made and entered on May 19, 2020 of Supervisors Minutes.



(seal)

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the Board of Supervisors  
Dated: May 19, 2020  
Kecia R. Harper, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, in  
and for the County of Riverside, State of California.

By:  Deputy

AGENDA NO.  
**3.38**

xc: COB

## Maxwell, Sue

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**From:** COB  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 7:25 AM  
**To:** Maribel Nunez  
**Subject:** Letter of Support: Agenda Item #38 Riv County Board of Sups to support county wide unincorporated area moratorium against evictions (Received)

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is in receipt of your email related to the Eviction Moratorium and added it to the Board Meeting record for May 19, 2020.

Thank you, and please stay safe and well,

### *Sue Maxwell*

Board Assistant  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
4080 Lemon Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 127  
Riverside, CA 92501  
(951) 955-1069 Fax (951) 955-1071  
Mail Stop #1010  
[cob@rivco.org](mailto:cob@rivco.org)  
website: <http://rivcocob.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/RivCoCOB/>



TOGETHER, *Everybody Counts!*



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---

**From:** Maribel Nunez <maribelnunez.cap@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2020 8:26 AM  
**To:** Supervisor Jeffries - 1st District <district1@RIVCO.ORG>; District2 <District2@Rivco.org>; Christensen, Karen <KCHRISTE@RIVCO.ORG>; Rose, Debbie <DLRose@RIVCO.ORG>; Bugtai, Wendell <wbugtai@RIVCO.ORG>; District3 <District3@Rivco.org>; DeArmond, Michelle <MDeArmond@RIVCO.ORG>; Balderrama, Olivia <OBalderrama@RIVCO.ORG>; District 4 Supervisor V. Manuel Perez <District4@RIVCO.ORG>; Hernandez, Steven <SAHERNAN@RIVCO.ORG>; Hernandez, Shayra R <shhernandez@rivco.org>; District5 <District5@Rivco.org>; Shannon, Boomer <BShannon@rivco.org>; Cline, Katrina <kcline@RIVCO.ORG>; Federico, Brooke <bcfederico@rivco.org>; Rodriguez, Sarah <SArrodr@rivco.org>; COB <COB@RIVCO.ORG>  
**Subject:** Letter of Support: Agenda Item #38 Riv County Board of Sups to support county wide unincorporated area moratorium against evictions

As a resident of Riverside Board of Supervisor District 2 resident and I support Agenda Item #38 for a moratorium against evictions that relates to the unincorporated areas.

To :  
Sup. V Manuel Perez, Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors, 4th District;  
Sup.. Karen Spiegel, Vice Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors, 2nd District

Sup. Kevin Jeffries, 1st District  
Sup. Chuck Washington, 3rd District  
Sup. Jeff Hewitt, 5th District

Riverside County Board of Supervisors,

We, the undersigned, in collaboration with regional community organizations respectfully urge the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, for pause on evictions. We are calling for a moratorium and either rent forgiveness or a one year payment plan and request that the county declare the moratorium at the next Riverside County Board of Supervisors meeting.

#### COVID 19 MORATORIUM AGAINST EVICTIONS (PART 1)

Recommend a Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside, California, establishing a temporary moratorium on the eviction for non-payment of rent for residential and commercial tenants during the declared COVID 19 epidemic emergency.

The resolution should include a spread out payment plan for at least one year, after the emergency ends.

Resolve that a temporary moratorium on the eviction of residential and commercial tenants due to non-payment of rent, in relation to the COVID-19 epidemic, is hereby imposed, subject to the following:

If able, the tenant should make an effort to pay a portion of their monthly rent.

Don't require residential and commercial tenants to write letter to their landlord because most people will not know there is a moratorium in place.

90 day rent forgiveness for residential and commercial tenants during the COVID 19 epidemic emergency.

Explore other possible economic relief measures for residents and local businesses tenants. For rent forgiveness, Palm Springs City Council can ask Riverside County, public entities or team up with other cities or special districts to apply for example ""COVID 19 Recovery District" by either doing one of the following 1) Creating a annexation development plan 2) Community Revitalization Investment Authority (CRIIA) or 3) Enhance Infrastructure Financing District. All these instruments are already exist in California state law.

After the 90 days, the landlord is entitled to collect full monthly rent owed after the repeal of COVID 19 epidemic emergency with a year rental residential and commercial payment plan that extends to a year.

2. The temporary COVID 19 epidemic moratorium and after the 90 days will not relieve the tenant from their obligation to pay rent nor will it restrict the landlord's ability to recover rent that is due after the termination of COVID 19 epidemic the moratorium that does not include the 90 days rent forgiveness period.

The landlord's ability to evict a tenant for non-payment of rent due to the COVID-19 emergency is suspended, until the moratorium is repealed and the year payment plan is respected.

#### COVID 19 BILL RELIEF (PART 2)

ISSUE: Suspend all utility shut-offs for a 90-day period for non payment, with the option to extend, and discuss other economic relief measures to safeguard rent-burdened families and small-businesses.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Riverside County Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Riverside County Chief Executive Officer to demand appropriate government agencies and private companies to suspend discontinuance of water, electric, gas and refuse utility service for non-payment for a period of ninety-days, and to extend that time period if still in a declared COVID-19 epidemic emergency.
2. Riverside County Board of Supervisors will urge the Riverside County courts to waive Code Enforcement Fees, cash bail, traffic tickets, parking tickets, and other fines and fees until after the emergency declaration ends.
3. Explore other possible economic relief measures for low-income residents and local businesses.

Respectfully,

Organizations

California Partnership  
APALA Inland Empire  
Bayanihan Desert  
Council of Mexican Federations  
TODEC Legal Center  
Lideres Campesinas  
Comite Latino  
Danza Azteca Citlalttonac  
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice  
TruEvolution Inc  
Riverside County National Organization for Women  
SBX Youth & Family Services  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Inland Empire Chapter  
LULAC Riverside Council 3190  
Inland Empire Democratic Socialist of America  
Inland Congregations United for Change  
Universalist Unitarian Church of Riverside  
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice  
Coachella Valley Immigrant Dignity  
Multicultural Council of the RMA  
Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective  
The Fair Housing Council of Riverside County, Inc.  
Riverside All of Us or None  
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability  
LULAC OF RIVERSIDE COUNCIL #3190  
UFCW 1167 (United Food and Comercial Workers)

Community Advocates and Riverside Residents

Elizabeth Ayala  
Rabbi Suzanne Singer  
Kevin Akin  
David Kronenfeld  
Judy Kronenfeld,  
Diana Goldman  
Bill Oppenheim  
Roslyn and Marc Jones  
Marc Feldstein  
Kara Croh  
Gayle Webb

Carol Johnson  
Dan Straus  
Charlene McKinley Powell  
Tiffany Farris  
Edward Zagha  
Lee Greer, Board President Universalist Unitarian Church of Riverside  
Adam Wedeking, Chair, Social & Environmental Justice Committee Universalist Unitarian Church of Riverside  
Rose Monge, Multicultural Council of the RMA  
Sandra Lorenzi  
Raymond Edwards  
Violeta Aguilar-Wyrick  
Amanda Riggle  
Ashley Othman  
Angel Fajardo, Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective  
Angela Bird  
Rose Mayes, Fair Housing Council of Riverside County, Inc.  
Lorraine Salas  
Kelly Graziano, Delegate, CA Democratic Party - AD 42  
Paula Marvin, Coachella Valley Teachers Association  
Vanessa Scott  
Angela Bird  
Francisco Ramos, California Democratic Party, Executive Board Delegate  
Delia Ramos  
David Weiner, California Democratic Party  
Patrick Weiss  
Monica Leavitt  
Yolanda Esquivel LULAC OF RIVERSIDE COUNCIL #3190

Best,  
Maribel Nunez  
Riverside County Board of Supervisor District 2  
(562) 569-4051

**From:** Nataly Escobedo Garcia <[ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org](mailto:ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2020 5:47 PM

**To:** District 4 Supervisor V. Manuel Perez <[District4@RIVCO.ORG](mailto:District4@RIVCO.ORG)>; Supervisor Jeffries - 1st District <[district1@RIVCO.ORG](mailto:district1@RIVCO.ORG)>; District2 <[District2@Rivco.org](mailto:District2@Rivco.org)>; District5 <[District5@Rivco.org](mailto:District5@Rivco.org)>; District3 Information <[D3Email@RIVCO.ORG](mailto:D3Email@RIVCO.ORG)>; COB <[COB@RIVCO.ORG](mailto:COB@RIVCO.ORG)>

**Cc:** Walsh, Michael <[MFWalsh@rivco.org](mailto:MFWalsh@rivco.org)>; Rodriguez, Greg L <[GRodrigu@rivco.org](mailto:GRodrigu@rivco.org)>; Lesly Figueroa <[lfigueroa@leadershipcounsel.org](mailto:lfigueroa@leadershipcounsel.org)>; Rebecca Zaragoza <[rzaragoza@leadershipcounsel.org](mailto:rzaragoza@leadershipcounsel.org)>; Phoebe Seaton <[pseaton@leadershipcounsel.org](mailto:pseaton@leadershipcounsel.org)>; Veronica Garibay <[vgaribay@leadershipcounsel.org](mailto:vgaribay@leadershipcounsel.org)>; [silvia@alianzacv.org](mailto:silvia@alianzacv.org)

**Subject:** Public Comment Submission: May 19th Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

Good evening Riverside County Board of Supervisors,

We hope this email finds you well. In partnership with Alianza Coachella Valley we are submitting the following letter in response to agenda items 3.3, 3.20, 3.21, and 3.38. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing a response from you during tomorrow's Board Meeting.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

In community,

--

**Nataly Escobedo Garcia, MA | *Policy Coordinator - Water Programs***  
**Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability**  
**C: 805-407-9800 | E: [ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org](mailto:ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org)**



[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

**From:** COB

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 8:36 AM

**To:** Nataly Escobedo Garcia <ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org>

**Cc:** Walsh, Michael <MFWalsh@RIVCO.ORG>; Rodriguez, Greg L <GRodrigu@rivco.org>; Lesly Figueroa <lfigueroa@leadershipcounsel.org>; Rebecca Zaragoza <rzaragoza@leadershipcounsel.org>; Phoebe Seaton <pseaton@leadershipcounsel.org>; Veronica Garibay <vgaribay@leadershipcounsel.org>; silvia@alianzacv.org

**Bcc:** Perez, Juan <JCPEREZ@RIVCO.ORG>; Saruwatari, Kimberly A. <KSaruwatari@rivco.org>; Federico, Brooke <bcfederico@RIVCO.ORG>

**Subject:** Public Comment Submission: May 19th 3.3, 3.20, 3.21 and 3.38 Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting (Leadership Counsel for justice and Accountability)

Greetings:

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is in receipt of your email and attached letter regarding several COVID-19-related funding items, and has included them in the record for May 19, 2020.

Thank you kindly, and please be and stay well,

***Sue Maxwell***

Board Assistant

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

4080 Lemon Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 127

Riverside, CA 92501

(951) 955-1069 Fax (951) 955-1071

Mail Stop #1010

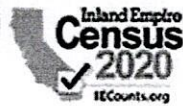
[cob@rivco.org](mailto:cob@rivco.org)

website: <http://rivcocob.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/RivCoCOB/>



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## Maxwell, Sue

---

**From:** COB  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 11:19 AM  
**To:** Nataly Escobedo Garcia; COB  
**Cc:** Walsh, Michael; Rodriguez, Greg L; Lesly Figueroa; Rebecca Zaragoza; Phoebe Seaton; Veronica Garibay; silvia@alianzacv.org  
**Subject:** RE: Public Comment Submission: May 19th 3.3, 3.20, 3.21 and 3.38 Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting (Leadership Counsel for justice and Accountability)

Please stay on hold to retain your place in the phone queue. IT will get to you, as everyone is being connected in the order received for each Agenda Item or Public Comment.

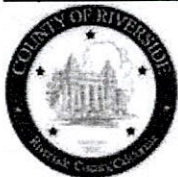
It may have been best to acknowledge that you were on the line when they called your name (and corrected them on the Item number at that time).

I wish you best...and you may have already spoken.

Thank you,

*Sue Maxwell*

Board Assistant  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
4080 Lemon Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 127  
Riverside, CA 92501  
(951) 955-1069 Fax (951) 955-1071  
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**From:** Nataly Escobedo Garcia <[ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org](mailto:ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 10:15 AM  
**To:** COB <[COB@RIVCO.ORG](mailto:COB@RIVCO.ORG)>  
**Cc:** Walsh, Michael <[MFWalsh@rivco.org](mailto:MFWalsh@rivco.org)>; Rodriguez, Greg L <[GRodrigu@rivco.org](mailto:GRodrigu@rivco.org)>; Lesly Figueroa <[lfigueroa@leadershipcounsel.org](mailto:lfigueroa@leadershipcounsel.org)>; Rebecca Zaragoza <[rzaragoza@leadershipcounsel.org](mailto:rzaragoza@leadershipcounsel.org)>; Phoebe Seaton <[pseaton@leadershipcounsel.org](mailto:pseaton@leadershipcounsel.org)>; Veronica Garibay <[vgaribay@leadershipcounsel.org](mailto:vgaribay@leadershipcounsel.org)>; silvia@alianzacv.org



**Subject:** Re: Public Comment Submission: May 19th 3.3, 3.20, 3.21 and 3.38 Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting (Leadership Counsel for justice and Accountability)

Good morning,

I am currently on the phone waiting to give my comment. My name was called for item 3.2, even though I submitted the online form for item 3.20. I will remain on the line until this item is called and ask to be allowed to give public comment then.

Best,  
Nataly

On Tue, May 19, 2020 at 8:36 AM COB <[COB@rivco.org](mailto:COB@rivco.org)> wrote:

Greetings:

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is in receipt of your email and attached letter regarding several COVID-19-related funding items, and has included them in the record for May 19, 2020.

Thank you kindly, and please be and stay well,

*Sue Maxwell*

Board Assistant

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

4080 Lemon Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 127

Riverside, CA 92501

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website: <http://rivcocob.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/RivCoCOB/>



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IECounts.org

**From:** COB

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 11:24 AM

**To:** Rebecca Zaragoza <rzaragoza@leadershipcounsel.org>

**Subject:** RE: Public Comment Submission: May 19th 3.3, 3.20, 3.21 and 3.38 Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting (Leadership Counsel for justice and Accountability)

I hope if you have not already spoken, you will remain on the line and be queue to speak.

Sincerely,

**Sue Maxwell**

Board Assistant

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

4080 Lemon Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 127

Riverside, CA 92501

(951) 955-1069 Fax (951) 955-1071

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[IECounts.org](http://IECounts.org)

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**From:** Rebecca Zaragoza <rzaragoza@leadershipcounsel.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 10:18 AM

**To:** Nataly Escobedo Garcia <ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org>

**Cc:** COB <COB@RIVCO.ORG>; Lesly Figueroa <lfigueroa@leadershipcounsel.org>; Phoebe Seaton <pseaton@leadershipcounsel.org>; Rodriguez, Greg L <GRodrigu@rivco.org>; Veronica Garibay <vgaribay@leadershipcounsel.org>; Walsh, Michael <MFWalsh@rivco.org>; [silvia@alianzacv.org](mailto:silvia@alianzacv.org)

**Subject:** Re: Public Comment Submission: May 19th 3.3, 3.20, 3.21 and 3.38 Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting (Leadership Counsel for justice and Accountability)

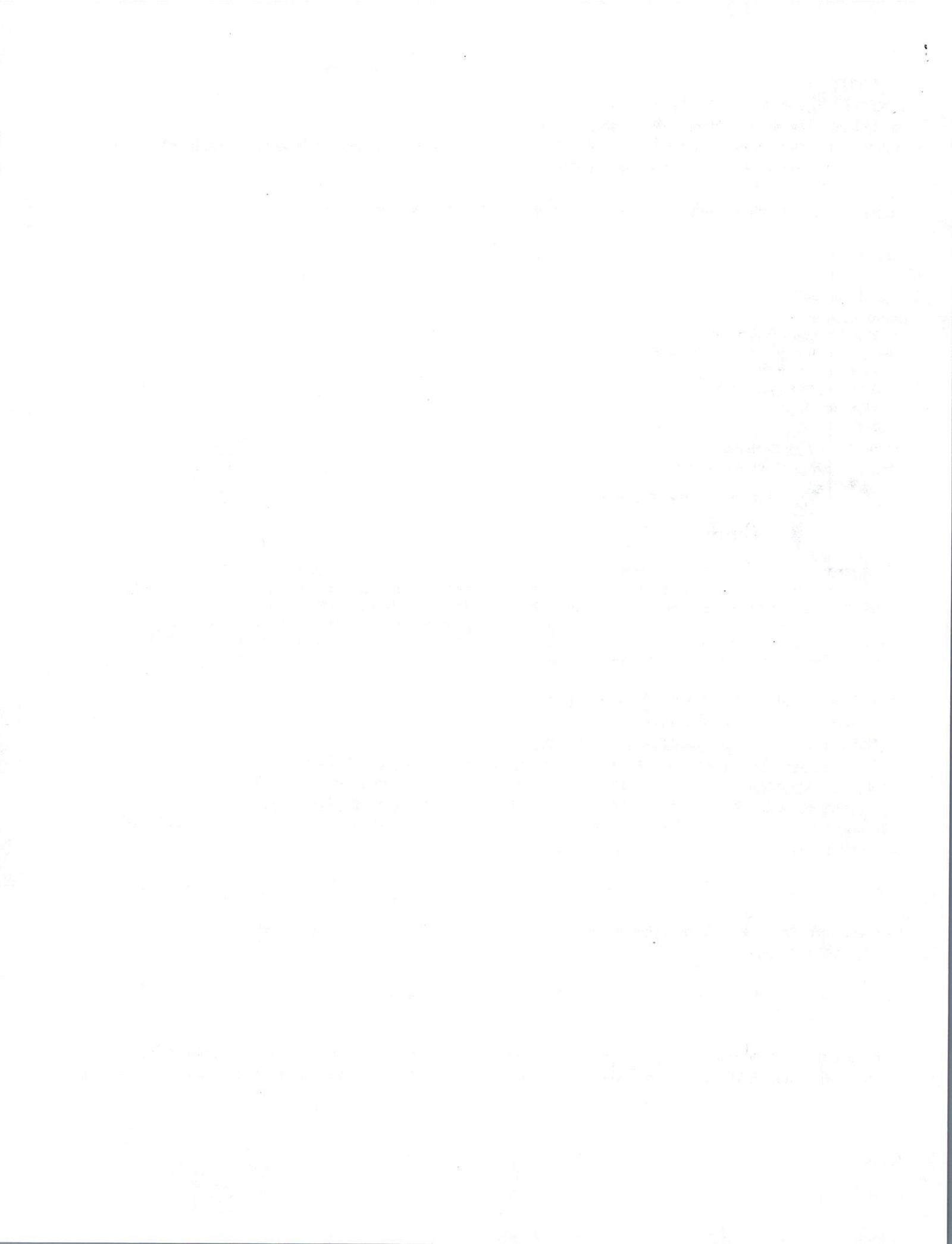
Good morning,

I am also currently on the phone. I signed up for item 3.3. My name is Rebecca Zaragoza and my number is +17607743528. Thank you.

On Tue, May 19, 2020 at 10:14 Nataly Escobedo Garcia <ngarcia@leadershipcounsel.org> wrote:  
Good morning,

I am currently on the phone waiting to give my comment. My name was called for item 3.2, even though I submitted the online form for item 3.20. I will remain on the line until this item is called and ask to be allowed to give public comment then.

Best,  
Nataly





May 18, 2020

Honorable V. Manuel Pérez  
Chairman  
Riverside County Board of Supervisors  
4080 Lemon Street,  
Riverside, CA. 92501

*Submitted Via Email*

**RE: Public Comments for the Riverside County Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting on May 19, 2020**

Dear Riverside County Board of Supervisors,

We hope this letter finds you well and in good health. On behalf of Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability we would like to submit the following public comments and recommendations concerning agenda items 3.3, 3.20, 3.21, and 3.38.

**Agenda Item 3.3: Acceptance of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Funding, Budget Establishment, and Administration**

We are grateful that Riverside County will be able to benefit from funding allocated by the CARES Act. If implemented and used effectively, this funding allocation could significantly improve our local and regional response efforts to COVID-19 in Riverside County. It is unclear, however, how the recommended expenditure plan was developed and whether public comments and general public participation was included in this process. In an effort to elevate transparency and prioritize the needs of the most heavily impacted and vulnerable communities, we recommend that the Board of Supervisors postpone the vote on the recommended motions for Item 3.3 until the County conducts a meaningful and transparent community engagement process that helps create a stronger expenditure plan that accurately captures and reflects the other critical needs and asks that community residents in the Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) and across Riverside County have been elevating.

On March 20th, April 3rd, and May 5, 2020, we submitted written comments that called on the Board of Supervisors to take swift action in responding to the COVID-19 impacts that are being

felt across the County. More specifically, we have advocated that greater support be given to the most vulnerable communities in the County, including the ECV. In this section, we reiterate several of those comments and outline recommendations on how to do this, as well as community feedback and priorities that we have provided to the Board of Supervisors in previous meetings and letters.

### **Gaps in the Implementation of CARES Act Funding Sections 1, 2, and 4**

#### **1. Business Assistance Response**

Under the section titled “Implementation of CARES Act Funding”, staff recommends that \$50 million be allocated to provide “small business grants to assist businesses affected by interruptions due to the pandemic”. In addition, a letter submitted to the Board from the Riverside County Economic Recovery Task Force to the Board on May 15, 2020 (Attachment C of item 3.3) outlines the different priorities developed by the Task Force for the safe reopening of businesses across the County, including an ask for “investment in the range of \$35 to \$50 million dollars” to fund their 5 goals and recommendations. While we acknowledge the heavy economic impacts that residents and businesses are facing during this time, and appreciate the Task Force’s work to alleviate part of the hardship for the region, we urge a balanced approach that addresses the acute economic impacts to both businesses (including not-for-profit and community based organizations) and Riverside County residents.

We appreciate the Task Force for Recommendation 5 which calls for the creation of a “Resource Table” as it aligns with our continued request for the creation of a community-based and community-led economic recovery task force. Identifying and sharing useful resources with residents who are suffering economically is greatly needed, but they merit the same opportunity to provide feedback, guidance, and priorities to the Board as well as have them be equitably heard and considered.

#### **Key Recommendations:**

- Prioritize funding for programs and assistance for workers and residents struggling to stay in their homes and maintain basic necessities including water, electricity, food, and medicine. This type of investment will promote short and long-term economic stability across the County and ensure that we are prioritizing the economic security of its residents and increasing long-term capacity to participate in an economic recovery.

- Identify and target support to small businesses with owners who are black, indigenous, and/or people of color. Specifically, they should receive assistance to support safety measures and other infrastructure in order to reopen and operate safely.
- Establish a community-led economic recovery task force for Riverside County with sub regional task forces that help capture local issues and utilize this venue to solicit feedback on the expenditure plan and identify key priorities that require immediate and significant assistance (more detail below).

## 2. Riverside County Government Response and Preparation

We support the provision of PPE and other assistance to first-responders and government employees. Their collective work and sacrifice during this time has considerably helped in flattening the curve in Riverside County.

As additional assistance, however, it is vital to also provide these supportive measures to the greater population of Riverside County. This includes providing PPE to all essential workers like farmworkers, grocery workers, and landscape workers and requiring employers to ensure safe and healthy workplaces.

Additionally, the County must make resources available to provide financial support to residents who have been laid-off or had their hours reduced, as well as financial support to workers who have lost their job after contracting COVID-19. Countless workers have been locked out of the full suite of safety net services made available through federal resources. Additional financial support to local food banks, schools, and churches providing meal service and safe drinking water to residents, as well as for direct delivery to more vulnerable residents like senior citizens or immunocompromised residents that make the request is critical to protecting the health and safety of the County's most vulnerable. Funding for rural communities who have limited access to broadband and internet and are heavily impacted by the digital divide.

### **Key Recommendations:**

- Prioritize, enhance, and enforce protective measures for all essential workers, including farmworkers, grocery workers, and landscape workers by providing PPE and enforcing the provision of PPE by employers.
- Allocate funding to support food banks, schools, and churches who are providing food and drinking water to residents and who are also working to directly deliver food to those most vulnerable to COVID-19.
- Implement and extend broadband infrastructure to support residents in rural areas to have stronger access to the internet.

### 3. Homelessness/Rental Assistance/Sheltering/Workforce Development

We support the allocation to assist community residents in rental assistance and other housing opportunities to support tenants who have been struggling to pay rent due to COVID-19, however, we propose there is a priority to support the most vulnerable throughout the county. Ensuring coordinated homelessness prevention strategies are put in place for currently housed individuals is critical in communities who are more vulnerable to intimidation and evictions.

For instance, Oasis mobile home park is in eastern Riverside County near the west shore of the Salton Sea. The park is home to approximately 1,900 people living in more than 200 units. Residents in the mobile home park struggle with contaminated drinking water, substandard housing, severe habitability issues, including frequent water shutoffs, unsafe wastewater infrastructure, increased rent, fees that either exceed the cost of service (e.g. electricity) or for services that are not provided (e.g. trash service), hostile management, threats of retaliation, homeless dogs, flooding due to inadequate stormwater infrastructure, and an illegal waste dump that periodically accumulates at the southside of the park.

It is our understanding that the park is at least partially located on allotted land and because of this, tribal, local and state jurisdiction is limited. However, replacement housing within county jurisdiction is a viable solution, especially for a community that has been severely impacted by COVID-19 and does not benefit from any state or local protections, this is an urgent matter in need of a solution. Residents in this mobile home park continue to face the impact of COVID-19 in job loss, school closures, increased food insecurity, and more. Oasis MHP is one example of the multitude of impacts residents in rural communities are facing and must be addressed to lessen the economic impact on families. We propose the recommended \$50 million for housing efforts to undergo a public process and prioritize the needs of most vulnerable communities.

#### **Key Recommendations:**

- Prioritize and increase rental assistance allocation to most vulnerable communities.
- Include utility assistance as a component of rental assistance.
- Develop a short-term COVID-19 response strategy for Oasis MHP that includes a long-term housing replacement plan.
- Create a public process and stakeholder group to inform the allocation and expenditure of funding for housing, rental assistance, sheltering, and workforce development.
- Fund legal assistance to protect tenants and others vulnerable of losing their homes, including support for both documented and undocumented residents.

In addition to the key recommendations above, we also ask that the following be included and funded under eligible expenditures:

- Transportation assistance for residents needing to access testing sites or other medical facilities in addition to food banks and food dispensaries.
- Ensure that the “mobile outreach to our vulnerable populations” includes rural communities and for material, announcements, and other communication methods are spread through accessible formats and languages, including Spanish and Purhépecha.
- Unemployment and other direct cash assistance for residents who are undocumented and residents who do not qualify for any federal or state relief funds due to their immigration status.
- Riverside County should provide strong oversight, monitoring, and reporting of all expenditures. We appreciate the recommendation for reports to be presented to the Board each month, but also ask for greater transparency and better engagement efforts to gather input into the decision-making process behind these expenses.

#### **Guidance for Implementing a Community- led Economic Recovery Task Force**

As mentioned above, it’s important for Riverside County to be transparent and equitable in its efforts to lead the economic recovery. We recommend the Board to create a county-wide economic recovery task force that will advise, guide, and direct the Board on how to utilize its CARES Act and other emergency relief funds intended to alleviate the impacts of COVID-19 in the community.

#### **Key Recommendations:**

- Establish a community-led economic recovery task force for Riverside County.
- Create sub regional task forces that help capture local issues. One sub regional task force shall be established in the Coachella Valley that includes the communities of Thermal, Oasis, Mecca, North Shore, and the City of Coachella.
- Utilize this venue to solicit feedback on the expenditure plan and identify key priorities that require immediate and significant assistance.
- Ensure that the task forces include residents, tenants, non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, youth, small-business owners, and people of color, and other participants that reflect the community for which the task force represents.
- The subregional task forces shall meet on a regular basis to develop a plan that identifies priorities and funding allocations for their local needs.



- The subregional task forces shall reconvene to merge all plans and identify a path forward for amending and establishing a regional and County-wide expenditure plan for the CARES Act funding.

Overall, we appreciate the progress that Riverside County has made in responding to the public health and economic crises related to COVID-19, but there is still much to be done to support residents and the community. Our recommendation is for the Board to postpone the vote on item 3.3. In order to bring this item back to the Board, we ask that the County consider our requests, conduct meaningful outreach and engagement to solicit public input, and update the expenditure plan for the CARES Act funding allocation that better reflect community priorities.

**Agenda Item 3.20: HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS: Approval and Adoption of the 2020-2021 One Year Action Plan of the County's 2019-2024 Consolidated Plan for HUD Community Planning and Development (CPD) Funding, Acceptance of CPD Funding Allocation, and Related Actions**

As the plan is currently written, we have concerns regarding the prioritization of projects and policies and the communities that would benefit from this support. We believe changes need to be made to the plan before it can be adopted and ask that the board consider the following recommendations before approving the Consolidation Plan.

**Citizen Participation Process and consultation process**

**HHPWS needs to implement a robust and inclusive public participation plan.** Neither the One Year Action Plan nor the Citizen Participation Plan includes a robust plan for public engagement. Furthermore, the plan does not include any discussion of public engagement in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure the public is adequately engaged throughout the implementation of the Consolidation Plan, we make the following recommendations:

- Ensure that materials are translated into all languages spoken by at least 5 percent of the public served by the agency, who do not speak English or are unable to effectively communicate in English.
- Provide interpretation at all public meetings into all languages spoken by at least 5 percent of the public served by the agency, who do not speak English or are unable to effectively communicate in English.
- Ensure all public meetings are held at accessible times and locations for disadvantaged community residents.
- Demonstrate how the County has incorporated / incorporates public input into the Plan and Plan implementation

## Annual Goals and Objectives

**HHPWS must prioritize low-income residents' housing programs.** While all goals and objectives will be critical to stabilizing housing needs in Riverside County, HHPWS must prioritize goals and objectives that support the most impacted residents in the county. To ensure residents that are most impacted by housing issues, we make the following recommendations:

- Expand the affordable rental housing stock, improve the Conditions of substandard housing, and address farmworkers housing needs, as the first priority of the Consolidation Plan
- Goals and objectives should prioritize the needs of historically marginalized communities, such as neighborhoods in Eastern Coachella Valley

## Projects

**HHPWS needs to explain their selection process for project benefits recipients and ensure transparency through the selection process.** Several of the projects that will be implemented will benefit very few households due to the limited funding available. As such HHPWS must explain their selection process to ensure that project benefits are distributed to residents most in need. To ensure equity and transparency through the selection process, we make the following recommendations:

- Include detailed description of the project benefits selection process.
- Clarify prioritization for residents most in need in the description of the selection process
- Prioritize recipients of project benefits from historically marginalized communities, such as the Eastern Coachella Valley.
  - Almost 200 families are currently facing severe housing insecurity and living in substandard conditions at Oasis Mobile Home Park. Oasis MHP families and others in similar circumstances should benefit from these investments.

Please accept the following recommendations below on a few of the allocations totalling for the FY 2020-2021 of \$8,059,621 in CDBG funds, \$2,531,648 in HOME Program funds, and \$641,710 in ESG funds. It is critical these allocations truly benefit low-income individuals, especially in the duration of the pandemic where tenants are more vulnerable and rent-burdened than before.

**HOME CHDO Set-Aside \$379,348**

The set-aside for the Community Housing and Development Organizations estimates that 5 households will benefit from this allocation. We propose there be a priority for farmworker and low-income housing.

**HOME New Construction \$1,299,368**

The goal of this allocation is to expand the affordable rental housing stock to an estimated 40 households that will directly benefit from this allocation. We propose there be a priority for farmworker and low-income housing.

**ESG20 - County of Riverside \$641,710**

The goal of the ESG allocation is to support homelessness prevention strategies including emergency rental assistance to prevent homelessness. This allocation should include support for residents at risk of losing their home due to non-payment, especially during the pandemic, including and especially those on tribal land who have less access to eviction protections..

**Fair Housing Program Administration \$135,000**

The goal of the program is to provide “no cost” fair housing services to “eligible” clientele, however, the eligibility is unclear as well as the provider of the service. Many residents in the Eastern Coachella Valley are impacted by less traditional housing practices and are vulnerable to evictions and substandard housing. This service should be available to all residents including those who are undocumented and people living on tribal land.

**Emergency Assistance Program - \$20,000**

Riverside Community Housing Corp. will use the CDBG allocation to provide emergency and essential assistance to 10 eligible individuals. This allocation should prioritize rental assistance to low-income tenants and be more flexible to ensure more families can benefit.

**Home Enhancement Program - \$400,000**

The goal of this program is to use this allocation for rehabilitation purposes including mobile homes and will assist about 12 households in the unincorporated Riverside County. This allocation should prioritize mobile homes in the Eastern Coachella Valley, which is in unincorporated county. Prioritizing and investing in affordable housing stock in rural communities will benefit communities vulnerable to substandard housing most in

need of rehabilitation. This should also include a set-aside of funding to complete the permitting process of unpermitted mobile home parks in the Eastern Coachella Valley.

**Home Enhancement Program - \$267,642**

The goal of this program is to use this allocation for rehabilitation purposes including mobile homes and will assist about 9 households in the unincorporated Riverside County. This allocation should prioritize mobile homes in the Eastern Coachella Valley, which is in unincorporated county and be more flexible to ensure more families can benefit. Prioritizing and investing in affordable housing stock in rural communities will benefit communities vulnerable and substandard housing most in need of rehabilitation. This should also include a set-aside of funding to complete the permitting process of unpermitted mobile home parks in the Eastern Coachella Valley.

It is important these recommendations are taken into consideration and included in the descriptions in the project allocations. It is unclear what the purpose and goal of the Eastern Coachella Valley Empowerment Initiative, we recommend this be clarified and modified with the participation of the community. Lastly, during these times it is critical all funds are used in a coordinated and strategic effort to ensure low-income communities who are most vulnerable to crisis are supported.

**Agenda Item 3.21: HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION, AND WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS (HHPWS): Amendment to the Citizen Participation Plan of the 2019-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, Acceptance of Community Development Block Grant-CV Funding Allocation, and Approval of the Substantial Amendment to the 2019-2020 One Year Action Plan of the 2014-2019 Five Year Consolidated Plan to include the Ramsey Street Village, COVID19 Micro-Enterprise Financial Assistance Program, COVID19 Rental Assistance Program, and CDBG-CV Program Administration**

We provide recommendations below on the amendment to the Citizen Participation Plan, allocation of the Community Development Block Grant-CV funding, and approval of the amendment to the 2019-2020 One-Year Action Plan and to the 2019-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

**COVID-19 Micro-Enterprise Financial Assistance Program - \$500,000**

The Amendment to the 2019-2020 One Year Action Plan (Amendment) includes the allocation of the COVID-19 Micro-Enterprise Financial Assistance Program will serve 30-35 micro-enterprises within "eligible areas" of the County. The description of the program does not

provide definitions for the “eligible or a micro-enterprise. Similarly, it doesn’t discuss how eligible entities will prove they have been financially impacted by COVID-19. It is unclear how the micro-enterprises will be chosen and how awarded funds will (or can) be spent.

**Key Recommendations:**

- Provide clarification on the County’s “eligible areas”, selection process, and how entities will demonstrate financial impact from COVID-19 and ensure all communities are eligible
- Prioritize small businesses in disadvantaged and low-income communities

**COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program - \$3,340,000**

The recommended amendment includes COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program serving 2,200 households countywide. We are pleased to see the dedication of funds to help people stay in their homes during this crisis but request greater clarity as to the geographic distribution of the funds, selection criteria, and process for administering funds. It is critical resources are distributed to disadvantaged and low-income communities where the needs are much higher due to high unemployment and underemployment caused by COVID-19 and legacy of rent burdened households. The County should also dedicate resources from this and other funding sources to increase the amount of funds available to address this critical need. Finally, assistance to pay for - sometimes as much or more than base rental costs should be eligible under this program.

It is unclear in the description of the program how non-profits will apply to administer the program as sub-recipients. Additionally, it is unclear how the rental assistance will be received by the tenant or the landlord. This should be made clear within the program and guidance should be given to the sub-recipients who will distribute the rental assistance. Additionally, there should be clear guidance as to how landlords and tenants receive notification and confirmation that rent has been paid in addition to relevant anti-discrimination and anti-intimidation mandates. This is especially critical if rental assistance is distributed to the landlord or property owner rather than the tenant. Additionally the County and / or sub-recipient administering the program should ensure the tenant does not face discrimination, intimidation, or retaliation from the landlord or property owner as a result of their participation in the program.

Residents who live in tribal land and in unpermitted parks within the Eastern Coachella Valley, along with other informal housing situations are most vulnerable to intimidation, retaliation, and evictions. With more than 100 mobile home parks in the Eastern Coachella Valley, it is important the County provides guidance and prioritizes residents in vulnerable housing. Additionally, we request verification that all tenants are eligible for this program and recommend that undocumented tenants who have less access to emergency financial support are prioritized.

Rental assistance is critical to ensuring tenants can stay in their homes during and after the pandemic. As discussed in greater detail below, an eviction moratorium combined with rental assistance will help tenants stay in their homes, prevent increased homelessness and support regional economic sustainability. We recognize rental assistance is a stop-gap and we need to work together to develop an effective and equitable economy to ensure that tenants impacted by the current and impending impacts of COVID-19 are not perpetually at risk of losing their homes.

**Key Recommendations:**

- Prioritize low-income tenants, especially tenants who reside on tribal and allotted land in more vulnerable housing situations
- Clarify the process for nonprofits to become sub-recipients of the rental assistance fund and provide guidance to sub-recipients on prioritizing more vulnerable low-income tenants
- Clarify and provide guidance to ensure rent payments are received by the landlord or property owner to prevent any further landlord-tenant disputes for non-payment of rent from the County or the sub-recipient administering the rental assistance program
- Include in amendment to the 2019-2020 One Year Action Plan to implement utility assistance within the rental assistance program
- Ensure priority of rental assistance to undocumented residents and other vulnerable household in current and future funding allocations
- Expand available resources commensurate with the need for urgent rental assistance
- Fund legal assistance to protect tenants and others vulnerable of losing their homes, including support for both documented and undocumented residents.

**CDBG-CV Reserve Fund/ Program Administration- \$901.211**

The proposed amendment to includes CDBG - CV Reserve Fund/ Program Administration which would allocate \$368,211 to an unallocated reserve or contingency fund to provide more funding to the already listed eligible activities such as the COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program or the COVID-19 Micro-Enterprise Financial Assistance Program. However, it is unclear on how the decision as to how to allocate this funding will be made. We recommend that unallocated funding to go to the COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program.

The proposed amendment recommends an allocation of \$130,000 to the Fair Housing Council of Riverside County Inc..It is unclear what type of support and resources the Fair Housing Council of Riverside County Inc. has provided during the pandemic to date. For example, services and resources have not been shared with residents of the Eastern Coachella Valley. The description

of this program proposes outreach, information, an eviction/foreclosure hotline, and advocacy to tenants within Riverside County. The implementation of the listed services is unclear and does not provide an adequate description of the services that will directly benefit residents in Riverside County, especially more vulnerable residents in rural communities like the Eastern Coachella Valley. Additionally, the program does not estimate the amount of residents who will be able to benefit from this program. The program and services from the Fair Housing Council of Riverside County Inc. shall not exclude undocumented residents.

The description of the program states funds will be used to pay for costs of the overall management and administration of the program. Additionally it is unclear if the leftover funds from the total \$901,211 allocation (totalling \$403,000) will be allocated to this program, and if so, why that is a reasonable expenditure.

**Key Recommendations:**

- Prioritize the \$368,211 allocation for COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program
- Clarify and provide further guidance to ensure services by the Fair Housing Council of Riverside County are provided to the the most vulnerable low-income tenants including undocumented residents.
- Require further justification of the \$403,000 for overall management of program

**Agenda Item 3.38: Supervisor V. Manuel Perez: report back regarding eviction moratorium during covid-19 pandemic and adoption of ordinance no. 958, an urgency ordinance of the county of riverside enacting a temporary prohibition on covid-19 pandemic related evictions in the unincorporated areas of the County of Riverside**

We are grateful for the staff report back and recommendation to adopt ordinance no.958: an urgency ordinance to enact a temporary prohibition on COVID-19 related evictions due to non-payment. We thank Supervisory Perez and the Board of Supervisors for consideration of this measure and recommend the following additions and clarifications to strengthen its efficacy and protections.

**Timeline**

The proposed urgency ordinance is proposed through May 31, 2020, or as may be extended by Governor's Executive Order, for any residential tenant who can demonstrate proof of the failure to pay rent as a direct impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Key Recommendations:**

- Similar to the Judicial Council Rule, the proposed urgency ordinance should remain in place until at least 90 days following the end of the state's or county's stay at home orders, whichever is later.

### Geography

Although the ordinance applies in the unincorporated areas of Riverside County and includes residents living in mobile homes, gaps exist for residents who reside on tribal and allotted land within the Eastern Coachella Valley. For instance, tribal land of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and allotted land of specific tribal members are exempt from any executive order or the proposed urgency ordinance. Many residents of the Eastern Coachella Valley live in substandard and dilapidated mobile home parks many within and around the checkerboard tribal land pattern where on one end of the street it is Riverside County jurisdiction and the other side is tribal land. This leads to confusion within neighbor's and family members who are under the understanding they are under the same policies. Additionally, within Riverside County in the Eastern Coachella Valley there are also unpermitted and informal mobile home parks called Polanco Parks where many are in the middle of the permitting process and many are not, which in the past has been an issue with tenant rights, drinking water consolidation, and fines..

### **Key Recommendations:**

- Establish coordination with tribal entities and owners of allotted land to ensure Riverside County residents who live on tribal land can enjoy the protections of the proposed urgency ordinance
- Increase innovative communications methods to share updates on housing policies or resources to residents, especially the most linguistically and geographically isolated residents
- The proposed urgency ordinance should extend to unpermitted parks and those in the middle of the permitting process. However, further streamlining the permitting process will create more stability and opportunity for the mobile home parks.

Concerns related to applicability of three-day notices requirements of partial payment and proof requirements



The proposed ordinance allows up to seven days following the day rent is due for the tenant to communicate an inability to pay rent due to direct or indirect COVID-19 impacts but does not prohibit issuance of a “pay or quit” notice during that time. To avoid confusion and intimidation, the ordinance should be amended to prohibit issuance of “pay or quit” notices for at least seven days following the day rent is due and preferably for the duration of the emergency.

Additionally, the proposed urgency ordinance obligates the tenant to pay partial rent when there has been partial loss of income. This is problematic because if the tenant has lost total income or cannot prove loss of income or needs partial income to pay for other expenses from their limited earnings, this provision in the proposed urgency ordinance is limiting and does not fully protect tenants.

The proposed urgency ordinance states tenants must provide verifiable documentation showing financial impact related to COVID-19 within 30 days of the tenant’s written communication to the landlord to delay all or some payment of rent. This is an obstacle for low-income renters who may not be able to prove their loss of income if they are part of an informal economy or are undocumented.

Additionally, all back-rent to be paid by the tenant due 6-months after the expiration or termination should be the date furthest of the State of Emergency, Local Health Emergency, or Executive Order N-37-20, whereas anything earlier puts tenants at risk. If back-rent is due 6-months after the expiration or termination of state local emergency or executive order , is a foreseen challenge to tenants whereas may not be sufficient to pay back all rent that is due within 6 months and should be extended to further support tenants as the economy progresses.

#### **Key Recommendations:**

- To simplify procedures and ensure maximum protection for tenants during this uncertain time, amend the ordinance to state that issuance of a 3-day pay or quit notice is prohibited during the duration of the state of emergency and 90 days following the termination of the state of emergency. At the very least, amend the ordinance to prohibit issuance of three day notices until after 7 days have passed (during which time a tenant can notify a landlord that they are unable to pay due to COVID-19)
- Amend the ordinance to be similar to the provision that *“clarifies that “in writing” for purposes of notice to the landlord includes paper copy, email or text communications to the landlord or the owner’s representative with whom the tenant has previously corresponded by email or text.”* This method should also work for proof of loss of income for special circumstances such as if a tenant cannot prove their loss of income
- Amend the ordinance to eliminate the provision stating that partial rent must be paid and instead accept the tenant’s written notification of inability to pay all or some of the owed rent.

- Amend the ordinance to eliminate the provision that states “verifiable documentation” must be provided as proof of loss of income and eliminate the 30-day timeframe. The amended ordinance should read, *“within 30 days after the date that rent is due, notifies the landlord in writing of lost income and inability to pay full rent due to financial impacts related to COVID-19, whereas any documentation that is provided to support this claim is presumed to be adequate for this purpose, and the burden is on the landlord to prove that it is inadequate.”*
- Amend ordinance to extend the timeframe for back-rent to be paid back up to 12 months , dependent on the repayment plan between the tenant and the landlord that is deemed fair and reasonable by both parties.
- Amend ordinance to add that during the state of emergency landlords cannot raise rents or utilities
- Riverside County to work with advocacy organizations to secure funding to support rent forgiveness for low-income tenants
- Fund legal assistance to protect tenants and others vulnerable of losing their homes, including support for both documented and undocumented residents.

More comprehensive tenant protections combined with a myriad of critical safety net programs for residents including rental and cash assistance, will serve to provide stronger protections and resources to tenants during these times. With these changing policies and new resources, communication efforts must be increased to ensure both landlords and tenants receive the appropriate information and understand the protections tenants have under the proposed urgency ordinance.

It is critical Riverside County Housing Authority assigns the housing ombudsman to ensure tenants and landlords can work together to settle fair payment plans, clear up misunderstanding, and assist to reinforce tenant protections provided by the proposed urgency ordinance.

\*\*\*\*\*

Leadership Counsel greatly believes in the importance of meaningful community engagement and public participation. We hope that the Board will be supportive in our efforts to elevate community priorities, increase transparency at the County level, and meet the needs of residents who are being impacted by COVID-19. We are ready to work alongside community residents, businesses, and the Board of Supervisors to make this happen. Thank you for your time and we look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,

Lesly Figueroa, Policy Advocate,  
Leadership Council for Justice and  
Accountability

Rebecca Zaragoza, Senior Policy Advocate,  
Leadership Council for Justice and  
Accountability

Nataly Escobedo García, Water Policy  
Coordinator, Leadership Council for Justice  
and Accountability

Silvia Paz, Executive Director, Alianza  
Coachella Valley

CC:

Riverside County Supervisor Vice-Chair Karen Spiegel

Riverside County Supervisor Jeff Hewitt

Riverside County Supervisor Kevin Jeffries

Riverside County Supervisor Chuck Washington

Riverside County Executive Officer George Johnson

**From:** COB

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 9:11 AM

**To:** 'mcrismorena@hotmail.com' <mcrismorena@hotmail.com>

**Subject:** May 19 2020 Agenda Item 3.38 - Moratorium on evictions (Maria Mendez)

Good morning Ms. Mendez,

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is in receipt of your email regarding an Eviction Moratorium during the COVID-19 Pandemic and has included it in the record for May 19, 2020 (continued to June 2, 2020).

Please note that this item, although discussed on May 19<sup>th</sup>, has been continued until June 2, 2020. You can review on the video recording if you'd like: <http://www.rivcocob.org/bos-video> (discussed around 12:08pm).

We appreciate your comments and well wishes , and please keep safe and well,

*Sue Maxwell*

Board Assistant

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

4080 Lemon Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 127

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**From:** [mcrismorena@hotmail.com](mailto:mcrismorena@hotmail.com) <[mcrismorena@hotmail.com](mailto:mcrismorena@hotmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2020 10:32 AM

**To:** COB <[COB@RIVCO.ORG](mailto:COB@RIVCO.ORG)>

**Subject:** Moratorium on evictions

Greetings Dear Board of Supervisors,

I hope you and your families are doing well.

My message today is to request your support for an eviction moratorium in rural communities and all disenfranchised communities in our county. During a global crisis the least we can guarantee families, elderly, the sick, etc., is a roof over their heads.

I hope you will support this proposal and work for the well-being of all Riverside County constituents.

Peace and health,

Maria C Mendez

92236

5/19/20 3.38