

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM: 3.36  
(ID # 13970)

**MEETING DATE:**  
Tuesday, November 17, 2020


**FROM:** SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES AND SUPERVISOR CHUCK WASHINGTON:


**SUBJECT:** SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES AND SUPERVISOR CHUCK WASHINGTON:  
Agendizing a Discussion of a Potential Unincorporated Communities Initiative and Unincorporated Communities Fund as Part of the Upcoming Board Workshop

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Discuss the Creation of the Unincorporated Communities Initiative and Unincorporated Communities Fund at the Potential Board Workshop on December 8<sup>th</sup>
- 2) Direct the Executive Office to Prepare a Summary of Current Expenditures and Programs in Unincorporated Areas

**ACTION:** Policy

  
Supervisor Kevin Jeffries, Supervisor 1st. District 11/12/2020


  
Supervisor Chuck Washington, Supervisor 3rd District 11/13/2020

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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

On motion of Supervisor Jeffries, seconded by Supervisor Hewitt and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended and to add to the listening session on December 15, 2020.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Date: November 17, 2020  
xc: EO, Supvr. Jeffries, Supvr. Washington

Kecia R. Harper  
Clerk of the Board  
By   
Deputy

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**BACKGROUND:**

Over the course of the Board Listening Sessions held over the past few months, one of several recurring themes was the need for more investment and improved services in Riverside County's poorer unincorporated communities.

Riverside County's total unincorporated population is almost 400,000, which is more people than the largest city in the County (Riverside, at over 330,000). But because they are scattered across the vast territories of the County, these residents do not get the level of attention or services that residents of cities do. While there are county agencies focused primarily on unincorporated residents (Planning, Transportation, and Code Enforcement, for instance), there is no broader office or effort within the county to do any long term holistic plan for services and infrastructure in these areas.

Attached is a plan for the creation of the "Unincorporated Communities Initiative", and an "Unincorporated Communities Fund", which is designed to fill that hole in the County system, and force a focus on unincorporated communities-most particularly the disadvantaged unincorporated communities.

This Form 11 is not for the implementation of the Initiative and the Fund, but simply to place the concept on the agenda of the upcoming Board Workshop (tentatively scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup>) for discussion by the full Board, and also to direct the Executive Office to prepare an analysis of the current baseline funding of programs and infrastructure in unincorporated areas, to help guide that discussion.

**Impact on Residents and Businesses:**

A discussion on how to better serve Riverside County's Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities can lead to improved quality of life for those areas.

## Unincorporated Communities Initiative (UCI)

Proposal to direct the Executive Office to return with options to achieve the following:

Following on the Board of Supervisors having conducted numerous Community Listening Sessions in 2020 to address, in part, the need for county investments in community services and infrastructure, particularly in Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities, the following is proposed to begin in FY 21/22 and continuing each year until otherwise directed by the BoS.

- A. The Board of Supervisors directs the Executive Office to implement a focused and ongoing coordinated effort to improve the infrastructure and services provided to the residents of our unincorporated communities. This focused effort shall be known as the Riverside County **Unincorporated Communities Initiative (UCI)**. The UCI shall have the support and commitment from all relevant county departments to assist in the on-going enhancement or improvement of community services and infrastructure in unincorporated communities, with a strong emphasis placed on Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUC's). In accordance with criteria established in SB-244 (Wolk) Riverside County LAFCO has identified upwards of 40 unincorporated communities or neighborhoods that have been identified as Disadvantaged as a result of income levels (below 80% of the Statewide annual median household income) and/or deficient infrastructure (water, wastewater, stormwater drainage, or fire protection).

Additionally, the Board hereby directs:

- B. Creation of an **Unincorporated Communities Fund (UCF)**. The **Unincorporated Communities Fund (UCF)** shall be the primary fund to receive authorized General Fund / NCC monies from the County during the annual budget and quarterly revision processes for the purposes described herein. The UCF shall not be encumbered with any form of on-going debt service or ongoing operating costs.
- C. Eligible projects funded by the UCF shall be limited to one-time expenditures and are envisioned to include; 1) First time paving of neighborhood streets. 2) Municipal water lines and/or fire hydrants benefitting neighborhoods. 3) Installation of streetlights or lighted crosswalks at intersections. 4) Bus stop shelters or related improvements. 5) Sidewalks near or leading to public facilities or addressing pedestrian safety concerns. 6) Installation of shade trees, benches, outdoor playground or outdoor physical fitness paths, recreation or exercise stations. 7) Expansion or improvements to public parking, security systems, fencing, and improved lighting for county community centers, senior centers and parks, and their parking lots. 8) Fund construction of small to medium sized facility additions /expansions/ improvements to county community centers, senior centers or parks, including neighborhood trails. 9) Drainage improvements for local roadways to improve mobility during and after storms (e.g. curb and gutter, road culverts and engineered low-water crossings). Other allowable one-time uses (infrastructure improvements) that are in alignment with the goals of the UCI may be expanded upon as approval by the Board.
- D. On an on-going basis, the Executive Office shall evaluate the ability of the UCI and/or the UCF to offer Low or No interest loans (property liens), in cooperation with public water/sewer purveyors with possible external grant sources to fund all or part of typical Connection Fees in order to assist existing low, low-moderate income homes to municipal water or sewer services.
- E. While debt service and/or on-going operational costs, as well as large capital improvement projects can fall under the umbrella of the UC Initiative, they are NOT intended to be funded by the UCF. Annual appropriations from NCC funds allocated to the UCF will generally adhere to a per-capita

formula of unincorporated residents within each Supervisorial District, potentially weighted to increase dedicated funding to Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities. Regardless, Supervisors will typically afford priority to projects within DUC's and to those that can obtain some level of matching funds/grants.

- F. Grant funds, Sub-funds, and/or restricted funds, funded by other sources may also be established and maintained under the umbrella of this initiative for targeted or specified Supervisorial District, Community, or Neighborhood projects, programs, or uses (similar to existing funds for Cabazon, Mead Valley, and Wine Country). These funds are NOT envisioned to include or replace CID funds or their uses.
- G. The Executive Office shall evaluate the feasibility of redirecting current NCC funds through the Unincorporated Communities Initiative (UCI) to be considered for UCI line item budget listing(s) which are currently funding NCC funded community centers, senior centers, parks, etc. that are located in and primarily serving unincorporated community residents.

*Example: A number of county owned community centers do not have a dedicated funding stream and their ongoing funding depends on the ability of a given county department to obtain general NCC funding for not only the countywide mission and operation of that department – but to also obtain funding for the community centers. Under the UCI, the original department would propose the recommended annual operating costs and needed NCC Budget funding, however the UCI would also account for that facility and function as a line item (and the internal transfer to the responsible department), thus increasing transparency and accountability for the services to our unincorporated communities. This initiative, its tracking methods or funding does not relieve or reduce any Department of its current services, obligations, or goals unless specifically stated.*

- H. The Administration of the Unincorporated Communities Initiative is proposed to rest with the Executive Office, and be supported with staff assistance, project considerations, and support from TLMA, CAP, Housing Authority, Flood Control, Office on Aging, Public Health and any other relevant departments or agencies. Local Municipal Advisory Councils (MAC's) may serve as an important venue and outreach source in many Unincorporated Communities.