



**COUNTY SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE**

(By Teleconference and Webinar)

County Supervisors Association

1905 West Washington

Phoenix, Arizona

MINUTES

April 3, 2020

Call to Order:	Rudy Molera	9:00 a.m.
Present Telephonically:		
	Ann English	Cochise County
	Matt Ryan	Coconino County
	Tommie Martin	Gila County
	Jim Palmer	Graham County
	Richard Lunt	Greenlee County
	Duce Minor	La Paz County
	Steve Gallardo	Maricopa County
	Jason Whiting	Navajo County
	Rudy Molera	Santa Cruz County
	Randy Garrison	Yavapai County
	Russell McCloud	Yuma County
Absent:		
	Alton Joe Shepherd	Apache County
	Hildy Angius	Mohave County
	Sharon Bronson	Pima County
	Todd House	Pinal County

Others present telephonically: Lynne Pancrazi, Jennifer St. John, James Menlove, Craig Sullivan, Penny Adams, Robin Hillyard, Vanessa Fielder, Michael Madden, Yvonne Ortega, Jacob Emmett,

President Rudy Molera welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He thanked everyone for their leadership. Penny Adams called roll and a quorum was present.

Approval of the Minutes

Supervisor Richard Lunt moved to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2020, Legislative Policy Committee meeting. Supervisor Duce Minor seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Session Update

Craig Sullivan noted that as previously reported at last week's LPC meeting the legislature suspended action until April 13. He noted that legislative leaders have been continuing to meet to determine whether returning on April 13 would be feasible. Craig said the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) should hold the Finance Advisory Committee meeting next Thursday, which should help determine how state revenue will be impacted with the retraction in the economy occurring. He stated the Governor and the legislature are entertaining policy issues to work on if the legislature does reconvene or if the Governor orders a special session by executive order. Craig reported AACo is working on the all mail-in ballot issue and the Treasurers Association put forth a press release requesting the legislature extend the deadline for the delinquency of second half payment of property taxes from May 1 to June 1. Craig noted this issue was discussed by teleconference by county managers this week, who relayed concerns of shifting cash flows out even one month, when expenditures are increasing significantly and sales tax revenue is contracting. Craig cautioned that consequences could be significant and unquantified. CSA will continue to monitor and report out.

COVID-19 Federal Update

Craig Sullivan reported that the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed last week by President Trump, and includes the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). He then reviewed elements of the CRF as it pertains to Arizona. The CRF will provide \$150 billion to eligible entities. Within that \$150 billion, \$8 billion is allocated to tribal governments, \$3 billion to U.S. territories, and \$139 billion to states and local governments with over 500,000 persons. Arizona's share of \$2.8 billion will be available to the state, Maricopa County, Pima County, Phoenix, Tucson, and most likely Mesa. Craig noted that uses of the fund are for eligible expenses of unplanned costs associated with the response to the COVID-19 public health emergency not accounted for in the recent budget and which occurred March 1-December 30, 2020.

Craig thanked the CSA Executive Committee for their quick action on getting a letter to Arizona's congressional members regarding:

1. How eligible jurisdictions are to be included in the guidelines and how will the U.S. Treasury calculate distribution amounts. He indicated that Maricopa and Pima counties need to be reflected in the reimbursement guidelines within the appropriate statutory role of counties as public health implementors to ensure resources are available to cover county expenses and are not reduced if other jurisdictions within the county receive funds (e.g., Phoenix, Tucson, or Mesa).
2. Craig noted there is no reference in the Act about the eligibility of counties under 500,000 in population. He stated that the letter to Arizona's congressional delegation is requesting their assistance to influence the Treasury to clarify in the federal guidelines that counties are eligible and intended recipients of the state's share. He added that CSA will work on a parallel track directly with the Governor's office on how the resources would be distributed.

Vanessa Fielder reported on the CARES Act aid available to Arizona based on JLBC's preliminary analysis. She reported that JLBC estimates \$4.2 billion of the \$2.2 trillion spending package in the Act is estimated to go to the state and local governments in Arizona, with the largest source of that coming through the Coronavirus Relief Fund. She noted that JLBC also estimates that a significant source of funding will flow into education (K-12 and higher education), transit agencies, child and family services, housing/food/elderly assistance programs, Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, emergency management/public health grants, and elections security grants. Craig added that CSA will continue to track all of the available resources coming into the state and how they will be distributed, CSA will learn more from JLBC on how they plan to work these into the state budget, and CSA will work with the Governor's office directly on the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

County COVID-19 Response Roundtable

Craig Sullivan reported that most, if not all, county supervisors have been participating in regular conference calls, including with the Governor's office, U.S. Senator Sinema, and key leaders. He opened the discussion for comments and concerns. Some of the concerns expressed focused on banks not being ready to follow through on the Act program requirements of administering funds to businesses; the timetable of businesses receiving emergency disaster relief funds' advance within three business days of applying not being met; the impact on landlords from the deference of rental payments up to four months from the Governor's Executive Order; uncertainty whether the state will share the \$105 million state appropriated resources to local governments; health concerns on high concentrated congestion at state and federal parks, campgrounds, and trailheads; the timing of the need to act on the mail-in ballots issue for the election; and praising the responsiveness of ADOT posting signs for areas closed.

Other Issues

Supervisor Steve Gallardo recognized the passing of Pima County Supervisor Richard Elías last weekend and suggested CSA pass a resolution honoring Supervisor Elías for his family. He said he had been a good friend over the years and it is a huge loss to lose him.

Other Business

President Rudy Molera stated that since next Friday is Good Friday an LPC meeting would not be held. He said CSA will consider holding an emergency teleconference, if necessary. Otherwise, the next meeting held will be the CSA Board of Directors meeting on April 16. In response to Supervisor Jim Palmer's query, Craig Sullivan replied the board meeting would be held remotely. Supervisor Russell McCloud thanked Craig and the CSA team for consistently being on top of all that is going on. President Molera thanked everyone and wished everyone a happy Easter.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Rudy Molera adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.