



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of May 20, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 5-C
PREPARED BY: Patricia Taylor, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

COVID-19 Impacts Update

Enclosure: No

Action: Information and discussion

SUMMARY:

Staff will provide a verbal update on COVID-19 and its impacts.

Background:

State Update

On March 19, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 placing into effect an order requiring all individuals in the State of California to stay at home or at their place of residence, to protect the health and well-being of all Californians due to the State of Emergency resulting from COVID-19.

On April 14, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom [unveiled six key indicators](#) that will guide California's thinking for when and how to modify the stay-at-home and other orders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Governor noted that the progress in flattening the curve, increased preparedness of our health care delivery system, and the effects of other COVID-19 interventions have yielded positive results. However, these actions have also impacted the economy, poverty, and overall health care in California. Any consideration of modifying the stay-at-home order must be done using a gradual, science-based, and data-driven framework.

"While Californians have stepped up in a big way to flatten the curve and buy us time to prepare to fight the virus, at some point in the future we will need to modify our stay-at-home order," said Governor Newsom. "As we contemplate reopening parts of our state, we must be guided by science and data, and we must understand that things will look different than before."

Until we build immunity, our actions will be aligned to achieve the following:

- Ensure our ability to care for the sick within our hospitals;
- Prevent infection in people who are at high risk for severe disease;
- Build the capacity to protect the health and well-being of the public; and
- Reduce social, emotional, and economic disruptions

California's six indicators for modifying the stay-at-home order are:

- The ability to monitor and protect our communities through testing, contact tracing, isolating, and supporting those who are positive or exposed;
- The ability to prevent infection in people who are at risk for more severe COVID-19;
- The ability of the hospital and health systems to handle surges;
- The ability to develop therapeutics to meet the demand;
- The ability for businesses, schools, and child care facilities to support physical distancing; and
- The ability to determine when to reinstitute certain measures, such as the stay-at-home orders, if necessary.

The Governor said there is not a precise timeline for modifying the stay-at-home order, but that these six indicators will serve as the framework for making that decision. He also noted that things will look different as California makes modifications.

MCTC Update:

On April 29, 2020, MCTC Executive Director, Patricia Taylor, provided staff with guidance extending the ability to work remotely from the office through May 15, 2020. Staff is required to continue to follow MCTC's Emergency Telecommuting Policies. In addition, Director Taylor will initiate a plan in accordance with the County or State guidance to return to the office. So long as the MCTC can maintain the social distancing guidelines and increased cleaning and disinfecting for the employees, there should not be any issues.

For more information on California's response, visit covid19.ca.gov.

Federal Stimulus Package Update:

Last month, MCTC staff provided information concerning the CARES Act funding package and the status of an additional potential stimulus package for local governments. On May 8, 2020, the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) sent a joint letter to the House and Senate leadership regarding the next round of COVID-19 funding, which is expected to be released the week of May 11th in the House. There may be a protracted process before we see a final product, but decisions about the House proposal are being made now. The letter explicitly requests the following:

- \$20 billion in funding through the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP);
- That all these funds act as sub allocated STBGP funding (to be distributed by population);
- That the eligible uses of these funds be expanded so this funding can be used as the non-federal match for any project under Title 23 (Highways) and Title 49 (public transportation). This allows these funds to be used to backstop local funding and allow projects to proceed even if local funds are not available; and
- That these funds allow for a 100% federal share.

It is recommended that MCTC staff and its local jurisdictions reach out to Congressman Costa and any other local member of Congress as well as other Hill contacts to encourage them to consider pushing for its inclusion.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact to the approved 2019-20 Overall Work Program and Budget.