



County of San Mateo

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Department: COUNTY MANAGER

Board Meeting Date: 2/12/2019

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Michael Callagy, County Manager
Subject: County Manager's Report #2 of 2019

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept this informational report.

BACKGROUND:

This report will provide you with updates on a variety of County initiatives focusing on Public Safety, Health and Human Services, Community Services and Performance, in addition to reports on legislation and issues that require your action. We also will keep you and the public informed about new services, upcoming events and general updates.

DISCUSSION:

Community Services

Community Affairs reviewing updating census tracts

The Office of Community Affairs (OCA) is participating in the US Census Bureau's 2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP), which involves reviewing and updating census tracts, block groups, and census designated places. This project involves coordinating with other interested parties in our county to determine if changes are necessary for analytical and planning needs, and may include economic development agencies, planners, and local government officials.

Specific criteria have been defined by the US Census Bureau for their geographic boundaries. For example: A standard census tract must contain between 1,000 and 8,000 people, with the optimum number of people being in the 4,000 persons range. During this process, OCA will review the county's existing census tracts and block groups, as well as known housing and population growth, to determine if any tracts would need to be split, or merged together. OCA has 120 days to complete this project and submit any requested changes back to the Census Bureau for their review.

Legislative Update

County leaders to meet with state officials over wildfires, Census & sea level rise

The County's legislative director and several County staff will meet this Friday with state Sen. Jerry Hill and state Assemblyman Kevin Mullin to discuss three key priorities for the County: preparation and response to wildfire danger, efforts surrounding the 2020 U.S. Census and the threat of sea level rise. Attendees will include representatives from 9-1-1 Public Safety Dispatch, the Office of Community Affairs and the Office of Sustainability. The goal is to educate our state representatives in more detail about the work our local staff are doing on these important issues and explore what opportunities might exist for promotion or legislative action. This briefing will be the first of several planned throughout the legislative session to highlight the work of the County in areas of high policy interest in Sacramento.

News, Updates & Events

County departments readying for potential second federal shutdown

As the possibility of a second federal government shutdown approaches on Feb. 15, 2019, County departments with programs tied to its funding and/or services are assessing and preparing for potential local impacts.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been successful in their effort to position enough prior appropriation into the Housing Choice Voucher system to allow payments to the landlords, for the voucher program, for the months of March and April. If a second shutdown lasts through the end of April, we would again be faced with potentially not paying landlords on May 1. As in the first shutdown, another concern, is that with most of HUD's staff potentially on furlough, some administrative tasks often crucial to closing affordable housing development financing may cause delays and as a result increased cost to projects currently in our pipeline.

The Human Services Agency (HSA) reports that March CalFresh (SNAP) benefits will be fully funded even if Congress and the President are unable to agree on an ongoing spending plan by Feb. 15. Ongoing discussion statewide continues whether state will wait and issue March benefits on their regular timelines or repeat what happened in January when benefits were issued early because of the first shutdown.