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**San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Updates and Take Actions  
*County is Devoting \$133M in CARES Act Funding to Health Care, Businesses and Vulnerable Residents***

STOCKTON – Yesterday, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors received updates and took actions related to the COVID-19 pandemic in San Joaquin County.

The Board received and accepted a status report from the County Administrator’s Office regarding the status of federal CARES Act funding which totaled \$133 million in a direct allocation to San Joaquin County. In summary, the County is on track to spend all of the \$133 million received through the following:

- The County has spent \$16 million through June 30, 2020, which includes an initial \$1.2 million for small business grants, along with an additional \$15.1 million designated for small business grants;
- County Department projections to spend another \$83.1 million on COVID-19 related expenses through December 30, 2020;
- Planned projects totaling \$12.5 million; and
- \$6.3 million to be held in reserve to deal with unforeseen circumstances.

In addition, the County has received a separate allocation of \$2,967,194 in CARES Act funding from the State and \$2,234,402 for State Realignment backfill.

The Board also authorized the County Administrator to move forward with negotiating an agreement for the implementation of Housing for the Harvest program focused on agricultural workers. In partnership with Community Foundation of San Joaquin and Catholic Charities, the County is allocating \$1,016,084 for Housing for the Harvest Program to provide wraparound services and 24-hour turnaround testing and results to agricultural workers. The County is also providing \$464,202 for San Joaquin County Clinics to provide testing and follow-up medical care for Housing for the Harvest Program, underserved communities, and homeless population; and another \$11 million for Private Hospital Grants for establishment of cash grant program available to six private hospitals in San Joaquin County to address unfunded COVID-19 expenses.

In addition, an update was given regarding the \$15 million Small Business Assistance Grant Program that was established by the Board and made available to assist businesses and non-profits with COVID-19 related expenses along with an additional \$1 million for personal protective equipment. As of August 14, 500 applications have been processed; 370 grants have been approved; and over \$3 million in cash grants and approximately 19,000 protective masks have been distributed. It was noted that **the current round of grants is open to businesses and non-profits through August 31, 2020.**

The Board also retroactively approved the creation of the Coronavirus Relief-State Fund and State Realignment Backfill Fund and additionally gave direction to the County Administrator to explore ways grant funding could be extended to K-12 schools, local colleges and universities.

Supervisor Kathy Miller, Chair of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, said she was encouraged with how the CARES Act funding dollars are being allocated and encouraged staff to add a fast, easy to understand graph on the County website, itemizing the County's CARES Act expenditures and planned spending, along with brief outlines of the various programs, so residents can quickly access the information. "We need to let the public know where this money is being spent. It is clear that our priorities are mostly devoted to health care and community support in order to fight the virus, save lives and help get our numbers down which is really important for residents to see," Chair Miller said.

Dr. Maggie Park, San Joaquin County Public Health Officer, updated the Board on the number of COVID-19 positive cases and hospitalizations in San Joaquin County. Dr. Park said there are currently 15,201 total cases and 280 deaths in the County. She said that the technology issue with the State's electronic laboratory reporting system (CalREDIE) which was underreporting positive cases, seems to be resolved and the County's number are fairly accurate. Dr. Park said that there are currently 160 COVID-19 patients in the hospital with 53 in the ICU and 33 on ventilators, noting that the ICU cases have been over 100 percent throughout the past 45 days.

Dr. Park said that even though she is optimistic that those numbers are beginning to decrease, the County remains on the State's watch list due to the total COVID-19 positive case rate per 100,000 residents. In order to be taken off the watch list, there are two metrics that the County is still not meeting regarding elevated disease transmission rates. The State requires a case rate of less than 100 per 100,000 over a 14-day average and less than 8 percent of COVID-19 tests being positive over a seven-day average. Per the State's county data monitoring chart, San Joaquin County currently has a case rate of 230.7 and a positivity rate of 11.4, which both exceed the State thresholds and result in the San Joaquin County remaining on the monitoring list.

Dr. Park reported that San Joaquin has moved from being one of the top five counties in the State for COVID case rates, down to 13<sup>th</sup> and that the County is making clear progress and going in the right direction. She said the goal is to have a sustained, long-term decrease in all numbers and that in addition to following the public health order rules, that all residents should get a flu shot when they are offered in early September.

Dr. Park stated, "The only way to get off the watch list and open schools and businesses, is to follow the rules, wash hands, wear face coverings, socially distance and limit gatherings. There is no magic wand to make this pandemic go away. It will take constant action by every single resident to shut down COVID-19, save lives and return to a sense of normal. The virus isn't as smart as human beings. We have the power to beat this."

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