

City of Exeter Agenda Item Transmittal

Meeting Date: May 27, 2020

Agenda Item Number: 3

Wording for Agenda: Discuss and provide direction on Council of Cities' response to the action taken by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors concerning pandemic recovery/reopening of businesses.

Submitting Department: Administration
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For action by:

☒ City Council

Regular Session:

☐ Consent Calendar

☒ Regular Item

☐ Public Hearing

Review:

**City Administrator
(Initials Required)**

Department Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Council discuss and provide direction regarding a Council of Cities response.



Summary/Background: On March 24, 2020 the Council adopted Resolution 2020-12 proclaiming the existence of a local emergency due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) subsequent to emergencies being declared by the United States Department of Public Health and Human Service, the State and County.

On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsome issued a stay at home order across the State for nonessential activities. As the stay at home order and subsequent staged reopening has occurred the County also issued orders matching the State requirements. Many local businesses were categorized as non-essential by County and State orders and have been closed or at reduced services for many weeks resulting in loss of income and employee layoffs. This is and will have a significant impact on the local economy and the City revenues.

Due to the issues developed through this pandemic, elected officials at the County and the eight incorporated cities within the county have been flooded with health and economic concerns over the last several weeks. There have also been challenges and frustration to the reopening of Tulare County under the State Orders and metrics for reopening, along with the County Health Department's response.

In response on May 19, 2020, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to open the County through Stage 3 of the State's California Pandemic Resilience Roadmap, ahead of State authorization. The action was taken without prior discussion with the cities and not specifically included on the agenda. This action has developed concerns, and confusion, with the public on both sides of the issue. The California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) responded to the County with a letter indicating that disaster funding for COVID-19 response could be at risk for Tulare County and the eight incorporated cities within the County. Several cities have felt the need to respond individually to the action and called a special Council of Cities meeting together on May 22, 2020 to discuss a collective response from the group. The Council of Cities group is looking for direction from each City Council regarding a response

Fiscal Impact: Total fiscal potential impact is unknown at this time. Disaster funding being at risk has been raised by CalOES, which could be in excess of \$5,000. At this point the current disaster funding is for direct COVID-19 response costs only, has several requirements that must

be met and does not include supplementing of lost revenues by cities. Availability of current and future funding types and amounts could vary and may or may not be affected by the Tulare County action.

Prior Council/Board Actions: None

Attachments: None

Recommended motion to be made by Council/Board: I move to give direction as discussed regarding a Council of Cities response.
