

Good afternoon,

The Kern County Board of Supervisors met today as scheduled for Tuesday's March 23, 2021 Board Meeting. Chairman Phillip Peters (District 1), Supervisor Zack Scrivner (District 2), Supervisor Mike Maggard (District 3), Supervisor David Couch (District 4), and Supervisor Leticia Perez (District 5) attended in-person. Each member followed all COVID-19 safety protocols, including social distancing and the wearing of face coverings.

Meeting Highlights:

- **Item No. 6 AM session:**
 - The Board proclaimed April 2021 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Kern County.
- **Item No. 8 AM session:**
 - Anna Laven, Executive Director of the Bakersfield-Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative gave a quarterly update to the Board regarding key developments from October through December 2020.
- **Item No. 14 AM session:**
 - Public Health Director Brynn Carrigan updated the Board on Kern County's current standing regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic and local vaccination distribution.
 - Kern County will move to the Red Tier beginning tomorrow, March 24, 2021.
 - Watch the announcement here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwDzkINQ9wY>
- **Item No. 25 AM session:**
 - The Board approved a \$4.5 million three-year agreement with Flood Bakersfield Ministries to provide outreach, engagement, housing case management, and linkage to behavioral health services for Kern County's homeless population.
 - The agreement begins July 1, 2021 and will last until June 30, 2024.
 - The Board strongly supports combating homelessness in Kern County and has allocated generous funds to aid in this effort throughout the community.
- **Item No. 32 - 37 AM session:**
 - The Board approved an array of unique job training programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Mexican American Opportunity Foundation and Proteus, Inc., UCLA Extension, Kern Community College District-Bakersfield College, and Dronitek Drone Flight Academy to provide diverse career support to local talent.
- **Item No. 42 AM session:**
 - The Board approved a reorganization of the Fire Prevention Division as recommended by the Center of Public Safety Management.
 - This reorganization improves fire prevention inspections and education services to the public through civilian positions, while bringing consistency, efficiency, and risk reduction through freeing up fire operational resources (firefighters) to focus on emergency and operational responses.
- **Item No. 8 PM session:**
 - The Board requested that the State of California end the Solar Tax Exclusion on large-scale commercial solar, an inequitable tax break that diverts money from the Kern County General Fund that's needed for disadvantaged and all communities in Kern County.

- In related items (No. 5 PM session and No. 72 PM session) The Board approved the RB Inyokern Solar Project by R&L Capital, Inc., that includes a cumulative impact charge (CIC) to address the ongoing fiscal inequity caused by the Solar Tax Exemption and provide that the project mitigates any impacts. The Board also opposed SB 267 (Hertzberg), which would enable large-scale commercial solar projects in California to be excluded from paying property taxes even after the projects change ownership.
- **Item No. 73 PM session:**
 - The Board approved the lease of 34970 McMurtrey Avenue in Bakersfield as a new County coroner, warehouse, and office by the Kern County Sheriff's Office for a 15-year term effective March 23, 2021.
 - This agreement meets a longstanding need to expand the County's coroner services for Kern's growing community.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.