

The Kern County Board of Supervisors met today as scheduled for Tuesday's June 8, 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 for the 9 a.m. meeting. Supervisor Zack Scrivner (District 2) was absent from the 2 p.m. meeting. Each member followed all COVID-19 safety protocols, including social distancing and the wearing of face coverings. Today's meeting also included modified in-person attendance, allowing 65 people in the Board Chambers with face coverings and social distancing.

Meeting Highlights:

- **Item No. 1 AM session:**
 - The Board proclaimed June 2021 as Elder Abuse Awareness Month in Kern County.
- **Item No. 8 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 remain in the Orange Tier for the following week.
 - Watch the announcement here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIXpANRwWyo>
- **Item No. 17 –AM session:**
 - The Board approved a mid-year project for the remodel of the Elections Vote By Mail Room, outfitting the Kern County Elections Office with the updated equipment to accommodate the effective processing of vote-by-mail ballots and improved public observation.
- **Item No. 19 – Item No. 20 AM session:**
 - The Board approved a memorandum of understanding with Kern County Superintendent of Schools and Wasco Union High School District for Behavioral Health and Recovery Services to provide substance use disorder treatment to high-risk students beginning July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023.
- **Item No. 25 AM session:**
 - The Board approved an agreement with Kern County Superintendent of Schools to provide school based preventative mental health services for youth at selected schools throughout Kern County from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
- **Item No. 33 AM session:**
 - The Board approved a preliminary allocation plan for Kern County's share of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund provided through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.
 - Kern County Chief Operating Officer Jim Zervis provided a presentation on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and preliminary allocation plan for Kern County's share of funding. Watch the presentation here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIXpANRwWyo>
 - Kern County will receive \$174.85 million in total funding and will allocate it into four eligible categories.
 - Kern County will allocate \$28.2 million to respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts including support for homelessness, behavioral health, substance abuse, mental health, mitigation of economic impacts on the County public hospital authority, restaff of County libraries, tourism economic recovery, and restaurant job training facility improvements.

- Kern County will allocate \$25.84 million to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers.
- Kern County will allocate \$80.09 million for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue.
- Kern County will allocate \$40.72 million to investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure including Lamont stormwater/flood mitigation, well replacement and rehabilitation at Buena Vista Recreation Area, a potable and fire water system at Camp Condor, a potable water system at Camp Okihi, sewer line replacement at Taft Heights and Ford City, sewer line replacement in East Bakersfield, sewer trunk lines and lift stations in Northwest Bakersfield, and public Wi-Fi at all 43 County Parks.
- Mr. Zervis also recapped Kern County's utilization of CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) funding which included \$30 million in small business forgivable loans to 938 local businesses, \$3 million in PPE to over 4,243 unique local businesses at no cost, \$0.8 million in grants to 111 local nonprofits, \$0.4 million in PPE to the community at no cost, \$2 million in food for seniors and vulnerable populations, \$3 million in rental and mortgage assistance, \$2 million in support for the homeless and Housing for the Harvest, \$13.2 million in the provision of ICU nurses for local hospitals, \$4.2 million in Alternative Care Site and Temporary Isolation Units to sustain capacity in local hospitals, COVID-19 testing, contract tracing, vaccinations, Public Health emergency response, countywide emergency operations, \$2 million in support for local Special Districts, and \$7 million in support all cities in Kern County.
- Additionally, Mr. Zervis highlighted ongoing COVID-19 activity and support (local, federal, and state programs) including \$51.9 million in Kern County Rental and Utility Assistance, \$32.6 million in Bakersfield City Rental and Utility assistance, \$45 million in COVID-19 testing, contract tracing, vaccinations, public education and outreach, and COVID-19 response efforts, \$116 million in state vaccination incentives, and a variety of state and federal programs available to Kern County residents.
- **Item No. 45 AM session:**
 - The Board approved a retroactive amendment with California Farmworkers Foundation to provide COVID-19 testing through June 30, 2021.
- **Item No. 46 AM session:**
 - The Board approved an agreement with Kern County Superintendent of Schools to allocate \$1 million in State funding for COVID-19 response team services from June 8, 2021 – July 31, 2023.
- **Item No. 49 AM session:**
 - The Board approved a five-year contract with Axon Enterprise to provide the Kern County Sheriff's Office with body cameras and Tasers beginning July 1, 2021.
 - This will allow the Sheriff's Office to purchase an additional 195 body-worn cameras, which will total 325 body-worn cameras within the department, equipping all frontline Sheriff deputies with this technology.
 - The new cameras include state of the art technology to automatically activate the cameras when the Deputy activates his or her taser or draws their duty weapon.
- **Item No. 19 – Item No. 21 PM session:**

- The Board approved \$4.4 million in funding for road maintenance and rehabilitation including chip seals on various Kern County roads and resurfacing on Palm Avenue from Allen Road to Old Farm Road as well as McCray Street from West Day Avenue to Merle Haggard Drive.
- **Item No. 25 PM session:**
 - The Board approved an agreement with Friends of the Tehachapi Depot for improvements at the Tehachapi Look Overlook to support tourism and educational opportunities.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.