

Weekly ReCAP for March 27, 2020

Date of meeting subject to change according to news on COVID 19, watch for notices.

Next CPC meeting April 6, 2020, now starting at 3:00 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Volunteer Center, San Andreas. New members are welcome, and members only will be able to participate in any closed session. Directions below:

The address for the Volunteer Center is 255 Lewis Avenue, San Andreas, CA (P.O.Box 196, San Andreas, CA 95249)

We share the same address as the San Andreas Elementary School, but we are located on the lower terrace, just down from the school office.

In San Andreas at the blinking light in town, take Main Street (old Hwy 49) past the Metropolitan, across the little bridge and turn right on Lewis Avenue. After about one block, Lewis Ave turns into a one-way street and our driveway is at the bottom of the *steep* hill, at the end of the chain link fence.

For Calaveras COVID-19 info, check the Calaveras Novel Coronavirus page

<https://covid19.calaverasgov.us/>

and the Press Release page for the latest Public Health info:

<https://covid19.calaverasgov.us/Press-Releases>

Calaveras County Public Health Press Releases

- [Calaveras Press Release - March 26, 2020](#) ***Latest Update***
 - [Calaveras Press Release - March 26, 2020](#) ***Latest Update***
 - [Calaveras Press Release - March 20, 2020](#)
 - [Calaveras Press Release - March 17, 2020](#)
 - [Calaveras Press Release - March 15, 2020](#)
 - [Calaveras Press Release - March 13, 2020](#)
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Community service call center opened in response to COVID-19

The Calaveras Enterprise / Press Release

The following is a press release issued by the Office of Emergency Services.

Calaveras County and the City of Angels Camp in cooperation with the Office of Emergency Services and Public Health have opened a “Community Service Call Center” for the residents of Calaveras County.

The call center has been activated to answer your questions or direct you to the appropriate department that can. Its activation is in response to the impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on you and your family. Calaveras County and the City of Angels Camp is making every effort to keep its residents informed in a timely and accurate manner.

The Call Center is another resource to support that effort. You can reach the Community Call Center by dialing (209) 754-2896 Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4pm.

Third coronavirus case confirmed in Calaveras County

Union Democrat staff 1 hr ago

A Valley Springs resident has been diagnosed with coronavirus, the third case in Calaveras County.

The Valley Springs resident is receiving care outside the county, according to a news release issued by Calaveras Public Health, which was notified Wednesday of the new case.

"Immediately after being notified, Calaveras Public Health launched a case investigation. Public Health staff are identifying persons who may have had close personal contact with this individual, including any friends, family members or healthcare professionals, to assess and monitor them for signs and symptoms of COVID-

19 illness. Close personal contacts identified during this investigation will be under quarantine," the release said.

"It is expected that further cases of COVID-19 infection will be identified in Calaveras residents," said Dr. Dean Kelaita, Calaveras County health officer.

https://www.uniondemocrat.com/news/article_fed5c676-6fa6-11ea-9c02-e7741e3ad1dd.html?utm_medium

RCRC – The Barbed Wire for March 20, 2020

Office of Administrative Law Rejects SB 1383 Organics Regulations

On Tuesday, [CalRecycle](#) officially announced that their long-awaited final regulations implementing 2016's Senate Bill 1383 (Lara) - a bill designed to reduce short-lived climate pollutants from organic waste - was disapproved by the state's Office of Administrative Law (OAL). The regulations have been in development since early 2017, with RCRC providing detailed comments and helping carve out certain exemptions for rural counties throughout the process.

The decision by OAL includes requests for numerous technical and clarifying changes to the final regulations, which were expected to be finalized this month. CalRecycle will be required to work with OAL to make the necessary changes, then release a modified version of the regulations to the public for another 15-day comment period on the modifications. CalRecycle staff is currently working on the changes and consulting OAL on the proper way to conduct a comment period during the current coronavirus (COVID-19) conditions.

The OAL's Decision of Disapproval can be viewed [here](#).

Bill of the Week: H.R. 5334 - Funding Our Roads and Ecosystems Sustainably Together (FOREST) Act

RCRC strongly supports the Funding Our Roads and Ecosystems Sustainably Together (FOREST) Act, authored by Representative Salud O. Carbajal (D-Santa Barbara) and co-authored by Representative Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale). The bipartisan FOREST Act would allocate dedicated funds to maintenance and repair of USDA Forest Service (USFS) national forest system roads.

California experiences an increasing number of catastrophic wildfires and maintaining national forest system roads is imperative for fire suppression. The FOREST Act is a vital step in ensuring that not only are the conditions of the roads addressed, but that the USFS budget remains intact so that it can continue vital forest management and fuels treatment projects to prevent future catastrophic fire events.

RCRC's support letter can be accessed [here](#). For more information, Staci Heaton, RCRC Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate, can be reached at (916) 447-4806 or sheaton@rcrcnet.org.

Butte Creek Ecosystem Restoration Showcased in New Film

[Sharing Butte Creek](#), a new film unveiled in early March, showcases the collaborative efforts that have led to the ecosystem restoration of Butte Creek.

Early growth of farms and cities, and the resulting increased demand for reliable water supplies and flood control, led to dams and levees along California's waterways, erasing the flood plains and blocking migratory pathways of salmon and other species. Recognizing a problem, landowners, urban and agricultural water managers, conservationists and state and federal officials partnered to move from a system focused solely on supply for rice growers, to a system that works to the benefit of multiple species in the region.

The Butte Creek project, spanning more than two decades, is an example of how complex ecosystem problems can be solved through partnership and collaboration. The Butte Creek Watershed extends to several of our member counties including: Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter, and Tehama. More information and the film can be found [here](#).

Economic Development Resources for Communities and Businesses Impacted by the Coronavirus

The [California Association for Local Economic Development](#) (CALED) has assembled information on programs, resources, response techniques, and tips that may assist business retention efforts during this time. To visit a page on the [CALED website](#) devoted exclusively to resources for communities and businesses impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19), [click here](#). The page will be continually evolving as new resources become available.

Executive Order Expands Teleconference Meetings Under the Brown Act

On March 17th, Governor Newsom issued the second of two Executive Orders conditionally suspending certain Brown Act provisions to allow local agencies to hold public meetings "virtually" through teleconferencing, without any physical gathering of people. (The first Executive Order had required agencies to provide at least one physical location from which members of the public could participate in the meeting. The March 17th Order eliminated this requirement.)

Legislative body meetings must still be publicly noticed in accordance the Brown Act, and the agency must provide a means for the public to observe the meeting and provide public comment electronically or telephonically. (For example, livestreaming the meeting and accepting comments by email, similar to a webinar, or allowing the public to dial into the meeting conference call and be "unmuted" during public comment.) The opportunities for public observation and participation must be included in the meeting notice, and the agency is also required to establish a process for receiving and resolving any requests for reasonable accommodation to allow accessibility to persons with disabilities. These

provisions will remain in effect "during the period in which state or local public health officials have imposed or recommended social distancing measures."

The Executive Order admonishes public agencies to "use sound discretion" in applying these provisions, and counties would be well-advised to defer controversial matters that are not time-critical until normal Brown Act meetings can be resumed.

RCRC member County Counsels are welcome to contact RCRC General Counsel [Arthur Wylene](#) if there are any questions.

Property Taxes Payment Dates Must Be Adhered To/Counties Can Waive Penalties and Interest

A [policy document](#) has been prepared by the [California Association of County Treasurers/Tax Collectors \(CACTTC\)](#) outlining that the April 10th 2nd installment due date for collection of property taxes cannot be moved. This analysis is due to significant financial obligations for counties in the weeks immediately after April 10th. However, CACTTC's position is there is sufficient existing authority to waive penalties and interest for those individuals who cannot pay on/before April 10 due to circumstances associated with the coronavirus (COVID-19). The policy document is available [here](#).

Keeping Broadband Access

On Friday, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai [emphasized](#) the importance of keeping Americans connected as the country experiences serious disruptions caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. During a call with broadband and telephone service providers and trade associations, Chairman Pai asked them to take the Keep Americans Connected Pledge. The Keep Americans Connected Pledge reads as follows:

1. Not terminate service to any residential or small business customers because of their inability to pay their bills due to the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic;
2. Waive any late fees that any residential or small business customers incur because of their economic circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic; and,
3. Open its Wi-Fi hotspots to any American who needs them. Shortly after the announcement, Verizon announced it would follow the pledge and waive late fees. AT&T followed suit along with over 75 U.S. telecommunications companies and trade associations.

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Rural Broadband Equipment

Last week, President Trump signed the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act ([H.R. 4998](#)) that will, in the months ahead, help rural telecom companies replace equipment from Chinese telecom

giant Huawei and other firms deemed a threat to national security. [H.R. 4998](#) establishes a reimbursement fund to offset replacement costs for telecom companies with fewer than 2 million customers, creates a program to share threat intelligence with those and other telecoms, and prohibits the Federal Communications Commission from offering Universal Service Fund subsidies for risky equipment. Section-by-Section summary of the bill is available [here](#).

Cannabis Banking

With Congress focused on efforts to stabilize the financial markets in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the odds for progress on the Secure And Fair Enforcement Banking Act have been particularly narrowed. Before the COVID-19 pandemic hit the U.S., the banking industry had been pushing an already tight timeline to get a bill passed before the November General Election. Last week, more than a dozen major trade groups and advocacy organizations sent a [letter](#) to the Chair of the Senate Banking Committee, Chairman Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), urging that he advance a bill protecting financial institutions that service state-legal marijuana businesses from being penalized by federal regulators. This is the first of many letters that Chairman Crapo has received from industry advocates. Just earlier this month, banking associations from 49 states and Puerto Rico [reached out and called for the passage of legislation to resolve the issue](#). Read more on the prospects of Cannabis Banking [here](#).

Judicial Council Considering Capital Outlay Plan

The Judicial Council will be holding its regular business [meeting](#) via teleconference on Tuesday, March 24. A live videolink will be made available just before the start of the 9 a.m. meeting on the Council's [homepage](#); comments may be submitted electronically as detailed [here](#).

Of particular note at next week's meeting is proposed [action](#) on the judicial branch's five-year infrastructure plan. Once approved, this plan will move to the Department of Finance. A table in the report (see page 5) that follows the staff memo found at the immediately preceding link details recommended trial court construction and renovation project priorities, listing a total of 33 projects slated to begin over the next five years with an estimated cost of over \$5.3 billion. A number of projects in RCRC counties appear in the first and subsequent phases of the infrastructure plan.

Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700): Electronic Filing Encouraged - Due April 1st

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) encourages form filers who have access to an electronic Form 700 filing system to take advantage of its use. If electronic filing is not available, filers are encouraged to submit Form 700s by mail rather than in person in light of the current pandemic. Statements postmarked on or before the filing deadline, Wednesday, April 1, 2020, are considered timely filed.

To access FPPC's electronic Form 700 filing system, [click here](#) . If you have an advice question related to Form 700, please e-mail form700@fppc.ca.gov or call (916) 322-1052 and leave a message.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update

In September 2014, Governor Brown signed a package of measures collectively referred to as the “[Sustainable Groundwater Management Act](#)” (SGMA). These measures created the framework for local agencies to organize themselves and develop [Groundwater Sustainability Plans](#) (GSPs) tailored to the needs of the basins/sub-basins in their region.

To implement their obligations under SGMA, local agencies, including many counties, formed [Groundwater Sustainability Agencies](#) (GSAs) and, generally, are focused on developing GSPs to reach “sustainability” of the underlying basins within 20 years. For those basins/sub-basins designated as critically over-drafted, the GSPs were due to the [Department of Water Resources](#) (DWR) by January 31, 2020; for basins designated as high- or medium-priority, basin plans are due on January 31, 2022.

In a demonstration of the seriousness of not meeting obligations required under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), last Friday, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced that Madera County will not be receiving the \$500,000 grant it had requested to assist with well installation for groundwater monitoring on behalf of groundwater sustainability agencies in the Madera sub-basin. As recently as 24 January 2020, the DWR staff had recommended awarding the full amount. However, with the inability of one sub-basin GSA in Madera County to achieve a signed coordination agreement, as required under the SGMA, DWR reversed its recommendation for funding. The draft funding list is available [here](#).

Bulletin Board

CPUC Seeks Volunteers for Home Internet Study

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), in partnership with the Geographical Information Center (GIC) at the California State University, Chico, and the California State University, Monterey Bay, are seeking volunteers to take part in the first statewide effort to collect quality measurements of local broadband speeds utilizing the new CalSPEED Home Measurement Device.

The CPUC will use data gathered to provide critical information to state policymakers interested in broadband issues, such as universal service and the closing the digital divide. This information can also be utilized to provide money saving information to consumers.

Interested volunteers can sign up by completing a survey, which can be accessed [here](#).

Fish and Game Commission Proposes Public Use Changes to Wildlife Areas, Public Lands, and Ecological Reserves

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) is a Gubernatorially-appointed body with regulatory authority over the state’s public lands and wildlife conservation. In January, the Commission released a regulatory proposal to make public use changes to California Department of Fish and

Wildlife's lands, including designating recently acquired lands and removing properties the Department no longer possesses or manages.

The proposal includes designating one property as a wildlife area, seven properties as ecological reserves, and making other site-specific changes that generally impact public access and/or public safety on these managed lands in various RCRC member counties, including Inyo, Mono, San Luis Obispo, Napa and Sonoma counties.

The Commission held one public hearing on this proposal in February, and will hold another at its April 16th hearing at 8am in Sacramento to accept comments orally or in writing.

Deadline Extended: Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery Planning Grant Program

In light of the evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) are working on a plan to extend the deadline to submit applications for the [Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery Planning Grants](#).

Although the new submission deadline has not yet been confirmed, there will be a minimum three-week extension to the original March 18th deadline. Once a revised submission deadline has been established, all applicants who have started applications on the [Grants Review and Tracking System](#) application platform will receive a notification from OPR/SGC.

Economic Development Resources for Communities and Businesses Impacted by the Coronavirus

The [California Association for Local Economic Development](#) (CALED) has assembled information on programs, resources, response techniques, and tips that may assist business retention efforts during this time. To visit a page on the [CALED website](#) devoted exclusively to resources for communities and businesses impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19), [click here](#). The page will be continually evolving as new resources become available.

Support for Infectious Disease Response

In an effort to help you manage services in your communities during these uncertain times, please see the Quick Guide to CDBG Eligible Activities to Support Infectious Disease Response [here](#).

Small Business Administration Coronavirus Disaster Loan Program

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is now accepting applications for low-interest federal disaster loans for Economic Injury Disaster Loans for small businesses and private, non-profit organizations in designated California counties and other states to help alleviate economic injury caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19). At the time of this writing, all fifty-eight (58) California counties are designated as eligible. To apply, please visit SBA's [Disaster Loan Assistance portal here](#).

COVID-19 Concerns Force Mother Lode Animal Shelter Close To Public

By [Tracey Petersen](#) / MML / Mar 21, 2020

Angels Camp, CA – The governor’s “stay at home” order has shut the doors to the Calaveras Humane Society.

While just on Friday, seven puppies were the last pooches to be taken in by the shelter, all have been placed in foster homes and one even found a forever home that day.

Shelter officials put out this statement:

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Due to California’s current shelter in place directive related to the COVID-19 situation, we are currently CLOSED to the public.

The majority of our animals have been placed into volunteer foster homes, and we appreciate everyone who stepped up to help with this!

We will continue operation of our Pet Food Bank for existing clients only. If you are already enrolled in our Pet Food Bank program and need to make your monthly food pickup, please call us (209-736-9417) or email us a few days in advance so that we can make arrangements for you to do a “curbside pickup.” Sorry, we are unable to enroll new clients in the Pet Food Bank at this time.

We will remain closed until we receive information from local or state government that the shelter in place directive has been lifted.

Thank you, one and all, for your continued support of our organization. We look forward to a future return to regular business hours and days, and to welcoming those folks who enjoy stopping by and just want to “browse.” We will miss you!

In the meantime, we appreciate your donations now more than ever. Whether it’s a bag of food for our Pet Food Bank, a crocheted blanket for our kitties, or a financial contribution, please know that we are grateful for it all.

The organizations Arnold thrift store has also closed until further notice. The Tuolumne County Humane Society remains open, according to its website.

Also, Calaveras County Animal Services released this update regarding its operations:

Calaveras County Animal Services doors will remain closed; however, we will still be providing limited services to the public needing assistance via phone or in-person appointments. Our services will be limited to the following:

1. Emergency services pertaining to: negligence, animal emergency medical services such as injured strays, dangerous or vicious animals, potential rabid animals, animal bites, and quarantines.
2. Assistance of stray animals: all strays must be reported via phone to our shelter and will be taken in case by case. We will not allow drop-offs of stray animals without prior arrangement. We will not be taking in any trapped healthy stray cats or return to field cats at this time.
3. Returning of owned animals or quarantines: must be done by appointment only.
4. Dog Licensing: will be done by mail-in only. Please call our office if you need a license and we can COVID-19 Concerns Force Mother Lode Animal Shelter Close To Public

PG&E Pleading Guilty To Involuntary Manslaughter Following Camp Fire

By B.J. Hansen / MML / Mar 23, 2020

Sonora, CA — The company Pacific Gas and Electric announces that it will plead guilty to 84 counts of involuntary manslaughter in connection to the 2018 Camp Fire in Butte County.

In addition, the company will plead guilty to one count of unlawfully starting a fire.

According to the Associated Press, CEO Bill Johnson released a statement reading, “Our equipment started the fire. Those are the facts, and with this plea agreement we accept responsibility for our role in the fire.”

As part of the plea agreement with the Butte County District Attorney’s Office, PG&E will pay a maximum fine of \$4-million and help fund efforts to restore access to water for residents impacted by a canal that was destroyed by the fire.

The Camp Fire killed over 80 people and decimated the town of Paradise.

Jury Trials Suspended For 60 Days Across California

By B.J. Hansen / MML / Mar 24, 2020

Sonora, CA — In response to the coronavirus pandemic, all jury trials at superior courts across California are suspended for 60 days.

If you were required to report to jury duty over the next two months, you can now ignore the summons. Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, issued the order on Monday.

She says, “Courts cannot comply with these health restrictions and continue to operate as they have in the past. Court proceedings require gatherings of court staff, litigants, attorneys, witnesses, and juries, well in excess of the numbers allowed for gathering under current executive and health orders. Many court facilities in California are ill-equipped to effectively allow the social distancing and other public health requirements required to protect people involved in court proceedings and prevent the further spread of COVID-19.”

Cantil-Sakauye adds, “Even if court facilities could allow for sufficient social-distancing, the closure of schools means that many court employees, litigants, witnesses, and potential jurors cannot leave their homes to attend court proceedings because they must stay home to supervise their children. These restrictions have also made it nearly impossible for courts to assemble juries.”

In addition, the required time periods to begin criminal and civil trials are expanded by 60 days.

Calaveras County Schools Extend School Closures Indefinitely

[By Tracey Petersen](#) / MML / Mar 25, 2020

Angels Camp, CA— Calaveras County schools under the advice of the health officer are extending school closures indefinitely.

In a notice found here: [Public Health on School Closure 3 25 2020](#) and issued on Wednesday afternoon by Calaveras County Health Officer Dr. Dean Kelatia, it recommends extending the closure of all schools within the county until the governor’s stay at home order is lifted.

In response, the Calavera County Office of Education Superintendent of Schools Scott Nanik released a letter acknowledging that all county schools will adhere to the health officer’s request. It states, “Based on Governor Newsom’s comments, parents and students should approach school closures more as a long-term situation rather than short term.” Also noting that it remains very important for students to complete assigned material and to work closely with their schools to “ensure they are academically on track.”

Nanik’s notice can be read below:

Based on the recommendations from Dr. Dean Kelaita of the Calaveras County Public Health Department, the Calaveras County superintendents have made a unified, regional decision to extend school closures for at least as long as California Governor Gavin Newsom’s ‘Stay at Home Order’ is in effect.

The safety and wellness of students, families and school personnel continues to be the highest priorities of Calaveras County schools and districts. The Calaveras County Office of Education is working closely with local agencies and will provide updated information as it becomes available.

Based on Governor Newsom's comments, parents and students should approach school closures more as a long-term situation rather than short term. Students and families should reach out to their schools for instructional materials and support. It remains very important that students complete their assigned work and work closely with their schools to ensure they are academically on track.

"Schools play a vital role in community, we will provide what is needed to support distance learning for our students and serve the families to ensure critical learning opportunities and resources are available," said Calaveras County Superintendent Scott Nanik. "We would like to get our students and staff back into the classroom as soon as possible, we understand how challenging this is for our students, families and faculty."

In order to slow the spread of novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) we ask that our community continue to adhere to the 'Stay at Home Order' and stay at home except for essential activities until further notification. We urge you to keep practicing the guidance provided by Public Health including:

- Social Distancing
- Washing hands often with soap and water
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Staying home if you are feeling sick
- Contacting your health provider if you are experiencing any symptoms such as fever, cough, or difficulty breather.
- Engaging in regular exercise or physical activity

Education officials also updated that a wireless network has been set up for staff and students to access the internet from several school locations to get need the needed materials for students. Click here: [Calaveras County Schools wireless network](#) for details on the network, locations and how to connect.

COVID-19 Related Business News Includes Building Of Key Virus Testing Tool

By [Tori James](#) / MML / Mar 25, 2020

Sonora, CA – Small business resources that will continue rolling out as the coronavirus crisis deepens might brighten a stormy outlook while one local company’s work to deal with the actual virus may be a silver lining.

Sonora-based Kinematic Automation, now in its fourth decade and internationally known for helping develop optimal end-to-end productivity solutions for manufacturers, has its pedal to the metal to deliver a multi-million-dollar automated unit that will speed up the processing of COVID-19 tests.

The custom automation machinery Kinematic develops take months of engineering, construction, and subsequent testing ahead of installation. While the CAM 7 unit it is building for medical technology company Hologic, Inc. was supposed to be ready in October, due to the COVID-19 emergency, the company is trying to push the delivery date up to June.

Additionally, Kinematic officials say they are also now quoting at least two other projects for patented machines that can be used for different elements of the testing supplies. To accommodate current demands, they are in the hiring mode; specifically looking for four to six machine-building workers on a two- to three-month assignment. Job requirements include the ability to utilize plans, blueprints, schematics, and manuals to execute the work.

A Key COVID-19 Tool

It was nationally reported that Hologic recently received emergency use authorization from the Federal Drug Administration for its rapid molecular diagnostic test for COVID-19. Kinematic officials note that it can provide a result in less than three hours. According to Hologic Company President and CEO Steve Macmillan, the tests are now in use by Hologic’s hospital and research lab customers across the country and the approval would allow Hologic to ramp up production twelve-fold.

Kinematic President and Co-founder Ted Meigs says the company, which joins the world community in the concern surrounding COVID-19, has a global presence as a leader in its field that obligates it to do everything in its control to mitigate the further spread of the pandemic.

“Never in our history have we faced the challenge that stands before us at this time. In our country’s critical need for COVID-19 tests, our unique Tuolumne County company is a key supplier of equipment to help our customers produce these tests,” he states.

“The local residents who have been the primary workforce from our inception deserve the credit for the success we have enjoyed for so many years. These same people are now on a mission to do whatever it takes to make a difference in the causality count,” he adds gratefully. “This county should be very proud to have provided such an extraordinary group of talented, creative and dedicated people who are doing so much for so many in their time of need. We are all in this together with one goal, to get through this and to come out on the other side even stronger than before.”

Other Coronavirus Related Business Buzz

Local business economic development officials for both Tuolumne and Calaveras counties say their offices are also working full-steam to get the word out about current and pending resources available for small businesses.

Tuolumne County Director of Innovation and Business Assistance Cole Przbyla says while his office had not yet received any communications from federal or state level officials about COVID-19 manufacturing or services needs and incentives for local businesses to gear up and provide related goods and services, he anticipated that incentives would probably be discussed once Congress passed its stimulus package.

Asked about the number of local businesses who have already taken advantage of the ability to apply for Small Business Administration assistance to deal with COVID-19 impacts, Przbyla says it is still too soon to know since he has heard that historically SBA has about a two-week response time.

Calaveras County Economic Director Kathy Gallino encourages local businesses to check out a [resource page](#) her department developed for business owners and employees, which provides extensive guidance, the latest workplace rules and advisories, and links to federal and state business resources.

CCWD Temporarily Suspending Utility Late Fees And Lockoffs

By [B.J. Hansen](#) / MML / Mar 26, 2020

San Andreas, CA — In response to the COVID-19 emergency, the Calaveras County Water District board of directors voted to suspend utility bill late fees and lock-offs until June 1st.

Customers are still responsible for paying standard base rates and consumptive charges, but penalties for late payments are suspended. The district's office remains closed and CCWD employees are working remotely when possible. Customers are encouraged to make payments online at ccwd.org or by phone at (844)-516-4349.

[Click here](#) to read about other coronavirus related steps taken by the district.

Also, CCWD stresses that the water is safe to drink during this time. **In addition, only toilet paper and human waste should be flushed down the toilet. Nationwide, there have been plumbing problems reported because people are trying to flush things like cleaning wipes'**