

Weekly ReCAP for June 26, 2020

Next CPC meeting July 6, 2020 now starting at 3:00 p.m. to 5 p.m. Until the COVID-19 is resolved in our community, the CPC meetings will be held remotely by ZOOM and/or conference calling. To participate please watch for connection information from Jenny. New members are welcome, and members only will be able to participate in any closed session

Minimal Job Gains In May Follow Staggering 2.4 Million Jobs Lost

By [Tori James](#) / MML / Jun 19, 2020

Sacramento, CA — California's latest unemployment figures show the rate was much higher than previously thought.

State figures released Friday for the month of May indicate a minimal drop to 16.3 percent as employers added 141,600 jobs. However, the numbers have been revised because the April figure originally reported as 15.5 percent turned out to be 16.4 percent after an adjustment was made to correct a classification error.

The minimal job gain of a tenth-of-a-percent follows an incredible loss in April of 2.4 million jobs, a staggering number that state officials acknowledge as "never before seen in California's history."

Locally, in Calaveras County, the May figures indicate the unemployment rate is at 12 percent (2,390 unemployed out of a workforce reported at 19,970). In Tuolumne County, at 16.5 percent (3,430 workers of a 20,790 workforce), the rate is slightly higher than the state average.

The counties with the highest unemployment are Mono and Imperial, which respectively come in at 28.9 percent and 27.8 percent. Lassen County comes in with the lowest rate at 10 percent. San Francisco County reported 12.6 percent of its workforce as unemployed.

Government Jobs Show Largest Losses

Nine of California's 11 industry sectors gained jobs in May. Construction posted the largest job gain (+75,000) thanks to strength in specialty trade contractors and ongoing construction projects. Leisure and hospitality (+64,800) had the second-largest job gain due to growth in accommodation and food services. Government (-95,800) had the largest drop with state and local government jobs both experiencing large decreases over the month.

The state's percentage of unemployed workers remains far higher than the 12.3 percent rate it hit at the height of the Great Recession a decade ago. California has paid more than \$30 billion in unemployment benefits since the start of the pandemic, according to the California Employment Development Department. The state has exhausted its account to pay these benefits, forcing it to borrow more than \$2 billion from the federal government.

It is even more shocking to compare the state's current employment straits to this past February before COVID-19 impacts hit when California's economic expansion had hit the decade mark during which more than 3.4 million jobs that had been created accounted for 15 percent of the nation's job growth. About two-thirds of those gains were wiped out in April and the unemployment rate hit double digits for the first time since the Great Recession.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports 38 states saw their unemployment rates decline since April when officials began loosening their stay-at-home orders and businesses began reopening.

Dr. Kelaita Details Recent Active COVID-19 Period

By B.J. Hansen / MML / **Jun 23, 2020**

San Andreas, CA — The Calaveras Supervisors heard an update about the number of coronavirus cases during a report from Public Health Officer, Dr. Dean Kelaita.

At today's meeting he noted that there are now 28 confirmed cases, half have now recovered and the others are still in quarantine. The most recent cases have been residents of Valley Springs. There have been nine positive tests over the past two-week period, equating to a 30-percent rise in coronavirus cases. Around 2-percent of the tests being administered locally are coming back as positive. Dr. Kelaita noted that it is lower than some of the hot spots in the state, which are seeing around 8-percent come back as positive.

He added that there have been 5,515 COVID-19 deaths in California, and none locally.

Dr. Kelaita also detailed Governor Gavin Newsom's new directive on face coverings, and stated that it is important to follow the rules in order to limit the local spread, and keep businesses operating.

In light of reports of various health officers across the country leaving their positions due to threats and verbal abuse, Supervisor Chairwoman Merita Callaway asked Dr. Kelaita how he is holding up.

He noted that he has served the community for 20 years, and his job, and that of other public health officers, is to provide scientific guidance, and medical expertise, to help steer the community through this pandemic.

Dr. Kelaita added, "Barring any other threats on my personal safety, or other kinds of abuses, which I have suffered at the hands of this community, a very small and vocal minority of this community, I'll continue to be here to serve the public."

Acknowledging the challenging role, Callaway stated she considers him as the “Incident Commander” of the county’s local COVID-19 response, adding “there can only be one.”

Calaveras Supervisors Pass Preliminary Budget

[By **Tori James**](#) / MML / **Jun 23, 2020**

San Andreas, CA – The Calaveras supes unanimously approved the county’s preliminary budget although one said he was holding his nose to cast his vote in favor.

The FY 2020-21 recommended budget was approved in the amount of \$284,108,192.13 with expenditure financing coming from revenues, ad valorem taxes, and available fund balances from designated funds and projected year-end operating fund balances.

CAO Al Alt noted that the adjustments made ahead of Tuesday’s meeting reflected board direction provided during budget hearings held last week. All departments were previously directed to cut their budgets by five percent, freeze hiring certain positions, and hold off as much as possible on purchasing.

The related necessary motion approvals, which had been set to be voted on as part of the consent agenda, were moved to the regular agenda at the request of District 4 Supervisor Dennis Mills.

Mills took exception to the way certain capital assets for the Sheriff’s Office were being recorded for funding even though the board had vetted and approved it during last week’s sessions.

A Beef With Big-ticket Item Accounting

More than \$720,000 of nearly \$1,291,000 in total appropriations for approved capital assets are earmarked for purchase and outfitting of vehicles for the Sheriff’s Office. Although the current budget shows the bulk of it as coming from the General Fund, AB443 monies are also being applied, over \$140,000 of which will wind back up in county coffers.

Sheriff Rick DiBasilio, who was on the meeting call, further clarified the funding plan, dryly noting that he would be open to a reimbursement. District 1 Supervisor Gary Tofanelli joked back that he had seen the sheriff’s AB443 \$1.2 million balance and could afford it, which the sheriff drily retorted that the funds were being tapped to the tune of over \$600,000 a year to keep his department’s expenditures from drawing down the General Fund.

Other major capital assets expenditures include \$170,000 for a bookmobile and \$130,000 for the purchase of four mobile generators for OES, both to be partially paid for with grant funding. The special district appropriations total came in at \$3,712,020.

The current equity total of county’s Designated/Special Revenue Funds is \$79,768,260 with listed appropriations of \$39,975,787. While General Fund reserves are being held at \$5,395,553, \$500,000 is being pulled from the \$7,237,214 Teeter Fund, a pot that builds off late fee payments to the county,

something that Mills said really bothered him. “I will have to hold my nose to vote yes...the Teeter has got to be corrected,” he remarked.

Before leading the motion to approve, Tofanelli remarked he was voting for it because it is a preliminary budget. “I do not agree with some of the things in it...we will see when we get to August when the state has done everything it’s going to do and we are looking at our final budget, and we have everything closed...and some better projections.”

County home sales slump amid pandemic; pending sales on upswing

• [By Noah Berner](#) / The Calaveras Enterprise / June 25, 2020

Though the median sold price of existing single-family homes in Calaveras County has remained relatively stable over the past few months despite the novel coronavirus pandemic, the number of homes sold in the county has declined significantly, according to data from the California Association of Realtors (CAR).

On a seasonally adjusted annualized rate, sales of single-family homes in Calaveras County declined by 32% during April, and by 1.5% in May. While sales dropped by 37.3% in neighboring Amador County during April, sales increased by 8.1% over May. In Tuolumne County, sales declined by 16.9% in April, and by 13.6% in May.

Sales of single-family homes in May were down 37.4% from May 2019 in Calaveras County; down 41.2% in Amador County; and down 30.1% in Tuolumne County, on a seasonally adjusted annualized rate.

The local decline in home sales mirrored similar developments across the state. “Existing, single-family home sales totaled 238,740 in May on a seasonally adjusted annualized rate, down 13.9% from April and down 41.4% from May 2019,” a June 16 CAR press release states.

“May home sales took the full impact of the coronavirus pandemic as much of the state remained in lockdown during the past few months and caused three straight months of double-digit sales declines, which we haven’t experienced since the association began reporting monthly home sales in 1979,” said CAR Senior Vice President and Chief Economist Leslie Appleton-Young in the press release.

California home sales in May fell to the lowest level since the Great Recession.

“As housing demand fell in May, home prices softened further, sending the statewide median home price below last year’s price for the first time since February 2012 and breaking the state’s 98-month year-over-year price gain streak,” the press release states. “The May statewide median price of \$588,070 for existing single-family homes in the state was down 3% from April and down 3.7% from May 2019, when the median price was a revised \$610,940.”

In Calaveras County, the median sold price of existing single-family homes dropped from \$352,000 in March, to \$332,250 in April, to \$330,000 in May, which was down 12% from May of 2019.

Though actual home sales in California continued to decline in May, pending home sales saw a large increase.

“There are encouraging signs that show the market is recovering and should continue to improve over the next few months,” CAR President Jeanne Radsick said in the press release. “With pending home sales up a stunning 67% in May, buyer demand is on the upswing amid record-low rates that are making monthly mortgage payments \$300 less than a year ago.”
