

**WEEKLY ReCAP****February 5, 2021****A Sampling of News and Views**

P.O. Box 935, San Andreas, CA, 95249 • (209) 772-1463

*Protecting our rural environment by promoting citizen participation in sustainable land use planning since 2006*

**The Community Action Project (CAP) administers the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC), which is comprised of regional and local organizations, community groups, and concerned individuals who promote public participation in land use and resource planning to ensure a healthy human, natural, and economic environment now and in the future. Learn more at [www.calaverascap.com](http://www.calaverascap.com).**

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**NEXT CALAVERAS PLANNING COALITION MEETING:**  
**February 8, 2021, 3:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM**

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME AT CPC MEETINGS**

Organizations, groups, and individuals may join the CPC. Prospective members may attend two consecutive meetings before making a final decision on membership in the Coalition. The membership form is a pledge to support and advocate for the Coalition's eleven Land Use and Development Principles, which you will find on our website: [www.calaverascap.com](http://www.calaverascap.com). There is no membership fee. However, members are encouraged to donate to the CAP/CPC. Visitors and prospective members will, by necessity, be excluded from attorney/client privileged discussions.

If you are interested in CPC membership, please email CPC Facilitator Tom Infusino, [tomi@volcano.net](mailto:tomi@volcano.net), to receive a membership form, agenda, and the Zoom meeting connection.

***To help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in our county, all CAP/CPC meetings will be held online via Zoom until restrictions are lifted by the Public Health Department.***

***Learn about more ways to get involved with CAP/CPC here!***

**Board of Supervisors Meeting February 9**  
**View the Agenda Here**

**IMPORTANT MEETING!**

**Planning Commission – February 11, 2021**

The agenda and staff report for the Planning Commission meeting of February, 11, 2021 have been posted to the website.

**<https://calaverasgov.us/Meeting-Calendar/ModuleID/3891/ItemID/944/mctl/EventDetails>**

**REGULAR AGENDA 1. Project 2020-065 ZONING MAP AMENDMENT:**

Calaveras County is proposing to amend the Zoning Map to bring the zoning into conformance with the General Plan. ***The zoning amendment proposes to change the zoning for 5780 parcels*** that are currently zoned U, Unclassified and HS, Highway Service, identified as interim zones, to one of the following zones: RR, Rural Residential, RA, Residential Agriculture, A1, General Agriculture, GF, General Forest, or REC, Recreation, based on the land use designation of the General Plan as identified in Table LU-2 of the General Plan.. Additionally, 1150 parcels with zones that are inconsistent with the land use designations are proposed to be changed to a compatible zone pursuant to Table LU-2.

*The proposed zoning may be viewed on the County's website at:*  
<https://gisportal.co.calaveras.ca.us/arcgis/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ebdd24eb70db4b5494fbdce6427454bc>

The map amendment has been determined to be a later activity within the scope of the General Plan, and the program Environmental Impact Report, certified in 32019, SCH# 2017012043 adequately describes the zoning necessary to bring the zoning into conformance with the land use designations of the General Plan. (Peter Maurer, Planning Director)

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**[Click Here to Read the Comments Submitted by the CPC](#)**

**[Click Here to Read the Comments Submitted by MyValleySprings.com](#)**

**[Interested in learning more about the General Plan Update? Click Here](#)**

## **Federal and State Government Take Action to Address Vaccine Distribution Challenges**

On January 18, 2021, RCRC and County partners sent a letter to Governor Newsom which outlined the challenges local health jurisdictions are facing in the administration of vaccines. The federal and state government are beginning to address some of the key items outlined in the letter around timely and accurate reporting, data transparency, and dependable vaccine allocation. This week the federal and state government made several announcements regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine distribution, including:

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) lifts the Regional Stay at Home Order for all regions statewide, due to the four-week ICU capacity projections for all regions being above 15%.

33 RCRC counties are in the purple tier, 3 are in the red tier and 1 is in the orange tier. CDPH will provide county tier updates on Tuesdays.

To increase available vaccine supply based on existing in-state vaccines, CDPH announced a process that will allow for the reallocation of vaccines from providers who have not used at least 65 percent of their available supply on hand for a week

Following Phase 1B, Tier 1 of the vaccine distribution plan the state will transition to an age-based eligibility system.

State launched My Turn system to standardize information and data. Individuals can sign up for a notification when they are eligible to make an appointment and the system will also allow vaccine administrators to report vaccination information into the state data system. The system will launch first in Los Angeles and San Diego counties.

The state is creating a new Third Party Administration (TPA) network to speed the delivery of current supply of vaccines to eligible Californians.

The Newsom Administration announced negotiations with Blue Shield of California to be the Third Party Administrator (TPA,) which would be responsible for distributing vaccines statewide to identified providers (i.e., pharmacies, healthcare networks, hospitals, vaccination site, etc.). Kaiser Permanente will collaborate with Blue Shield to help deliver vaccines quickly across the state.

President Biden's COVID-19 Task Force provided its first briefing.

The federal COVID-19 Task force announced states should expect a 16% increase in vaccines (8.6 million doses to 10 million doses per week) over the next three weeks.

The federal government is planning to secure 200 million more doses of COVID-19 vaccines.

The Biden administration committed to provide states a three-week advance notice on how much vaccine they will be allocated, allowing more time for states, local governments, and healthcare providers to plan for vaccine distribution.

RCRC staff will continue to monitor the situation and work with our county partners to advocate for local vaccine needs. For more information, contact Sarah Dukett, Legislative Advocate at (916) 447-4806 or [sdukett@rcrcnet.org](mailto:sdukett@rcrcnet.org).

## Bill of the Week: Senate Bill 252 (Wiener) – Bears: Take Prohibition

RCRC has officially opposed Senate Bill 252 by Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco). SB 252 would ban the hunting of black bears for sport in California.

RCRC believes there is no scientific basis or practical necessity for SB 252, particularly since black bear hunting is already regulated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). In fact, CDFW data demonstrates that the black bear in California is flourishing, while rural communities struggle to control black bear populations to ensure the safety of their residents.

If SB 252 were to become law, RCRC member counties would be deprived of their only recourse for continual public safety through seasonal population control. In addition, RCRC member counties would have to navigate an often inefficient bureaucracy for obtaining depredation permits, and relying on insufficient actions by state and federal agencies to do the work that hunters have done capably in rural areas for centuries.

RCRC's opposition letter can be accessed [here](#). For more information, contact Sidd Nag, RCRC Legislative Advocate, at (916) 447-4806 or [snag@rcrcnet.org](mailto:snag@rcrcnet.org).



Black Bear Cubs in Yosemite NP Image by Megan Fiske Copyright 2018 [yosemitenorthphotography.com](http://yosemitenorthphotography.com)

## **RCRC Letter Calling for Direct Funding for Local Governments**

On Wednesday, RCRC sent letters to its Congressional delegation urging the inclusion of direct financial assistance for local governments in any subsequent coronavirus relief package. In particular, the letters request that any future state and local funding be sent directly to counties of all sizes from the U.S. Treasury, rather than through the State of California. President Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief proposal includes \$350 billion in aid to state and local governments, however details on the exact distribution formula for the funds has yet to be released. On Monday, President Biden stated that he is open to negotiations on his proposal but insisted that "time is of the essence" in moving the package forward. A copy of RCRC's letter can be accessed [here](#).

## **Board of Forestry Proposed Fire Safe Regulations - Update**

This week the California Board of Forestry (BOF) held a public workshop to discuss proposed changes to Articles 4 and 5 of the State Fire Safe regulations. Several BOF members in attendance expressed concern about the expedited pace of the revision process and requested that the staff take a more iterative approach to crafting the new regulations.

BOF staff indicated that it will continue with the current workshop process in hopes that a final draft proposal can be presented to the board for approval at the March 2nd and 3rd meetings. In advance of the next regulatory workshop scheduled for February 9th, a revised draft proposal incorporating changes based on public comment will be released for discussion. All public comment received by the BOF since the first workshop in November is now available for viewing on the BOF website, and will be updated weekly.

The State Fire Safe regulations set forth basic wildfire protection standards for development in the State Responsibility Area and, beginning July 1, 2021, the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones of the Local Responsibility Area. The changes made in the draft rulemaking, will have extraordinary impacts on housing production, not only in rural areas of the state, but also in more urbanized regions of California. For instance, the draft regulations would prohibit any future building construction on property served by a road that has not been upgraded, or that cannot be upgraded to meet current standards, such as dead-end roads. These upgrade requirements include road widening, re-surfacing, leveling grades and curves, and bridge improvements, from the property line to the nearest fire station, and apply to the building of a single residential unit or any business increasing its "service capacity." All required upgrades would be at the expense of the property owner.

RCRC staff has been in discussions with the BOF since April, 2020 on proposed revisions to the State Fire Safe regulations and have offered both written and oral



**comments on the preceding emergency rulemaking that ultimately made more minor changes to the regulations.**

**For updates from the BOF on the Fire Safe Regulations and other activities of the BOF Resource Protection Committee, subscribe to email updates [here](#). For more information, please contact Tracy Rhine at [trhine@rcrcnet.org](mailto:trhine@rcrcnet.org)**

## **ICYMI: Hometown California Interviews Bob Stern, An Influencer of California Politics**

In the latest episode of Hometown California, RCRC's Senior Vice President for Governmental Affairs, Paul A. Smith, holds a conversation about political reform, the state of California politics, and influential ballot measures in an interview with Bob Stern, J.D., a man with a long history of influence in California politics.

Bob Stern made his mark on California politics In the 1970's, as the co-author of California's Political Reform Act (1974). And, his influence does not stop there. When former Governor Jerry Brown was Secretary of State, Stern served as his Elections Counsel. He served as the first General Counsel of the California Fair Political Practices Commission, and was the former President of the Center for Governmental Studies (a non-profit research organization). He has been a mover-and-shaker of California politics for many decades. Listen in as Paul and Bob discuss the impact of political reform in California, what's working, and what could be better. Hear Bob's insights about influential ballot measures of the past as well as the present. And, listen as Bob shares his thoughts about the impact COVID-19 is having on the state, and about the political divisions-- both in the state and the nation-- that have become prominent in recent years. [Listen now](#).

## **State Takes Early Action on Distributing Emergency Rental Assistance Funding, Extending Eviction Moratorium**

In late December 2020, the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 was approved and, among its many provisions, created a \$25 billion Emergency Rental Assistance program for low-income and distressed renters experiencing housing insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the U.S. Treasury entitled local jurisdictions with populations over 200,000 with direct payments to assist low-income tenants with rent and utilities, lower population cities and counties were again reliant upon the state to provide these dollars to non-qualifying jurisdictions.

In the Governor's 2021-22 proposed Budget, California estimated it would receive \$2.6 billion total in funding, of which \$1.1 billion would be directly allocated from the Federal government to larger jurisdictions. [RCRC responded](#) to the proposed Budget to urge the state to address the inequity between distressed households in rural areas versus urban ones by providing funding

directly to smaller jurisdictions. A recent [state audit](#), published that same day, acknowledged the funding formula devised by the Newsom Administration disadvantaged smaller counties out of receiving their fair share of federal Coronavirus Relief Funds. In fact, rural and suburban counties received nearly half the funds of their urban counterparts to equally respond to public health and safety issues generated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Monday, Governor Newsom announced a deal with Legislative Leaders on extending the state Eviction Moratorium that was set to expire on January 31, 2021, as well as 1) create a \$1.5 billion State Rental Assistance Program through the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide larger jurisdictions additional block grant funding, and 2) set aside \$150 million for tenant relief in the remaining thirty smaller counties. Smaller counties, and mid-size localities (cities and counties with populations between 200,000 to 499,999) that do not receive block grants from the state, would have their funding allocations administered by a third party contracted by the state Department and would not be managed directly by these local governments.

During committee deliberations, Assembly Member Jim Wood (D-Sonoma), was particularly interested in providing equity to smaller counties and ensuring rural areas do not get shortchanged on a per capita basis. According to testimony by the Department of Finance, the \$150 million set aside for rental relief in smaller counties is double the amount that would have been otherwise available with a population-based formula. Assembly Member Wood expressed a healthy dose of skepticism and argued for the Administration to be held accountable for its ability to reach low-income residents in smaller counties, which often have the added burdens of insufficient broadband and wireless coverage to access assistance.

On Thursday, both the Senate and Assembly passed this State Rental Assistance Program measure ([Senate Bill 91](#)), which included an extension to the state Eviction Moratorium, and was subsequently signed into law by the Governor. These dollars must be spent quickly according to the state program and in accordance with federal law timelines. If deadlines are not met, not only would unspent funds be re-allocated to other areas of the state, but both entitlement counties and the state's program risk having to return these dollars to the U.S. Treasury by the end of the 2021 calendar year.

No later than March 15th, state contractors must open applications for landlords and tenants in smaller jurisdictions. More information on this topic should be released [here](#).

## **Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Definition Change Proposal**

The federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is requesting public comment on proposed changes to its metropolitan and micropolitan area definition.

OMB's most critical proposed change would increase the minimum Urbanized Area population threshold used to establish a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) from 50,000 to 100,000 people. The criteria for micropolitan areas will change to an Urbanized Area population threshold of 10,000 to 99,999 people. In California, the threshold change will move a number



of counties from the MSA to the micropolitan statistical area designation. They are: Butte (Chico), Kings (Hanford-Corcoran), Madera (Madera), Napa (Napa), and San Luis Obispo Counties (San Luis Obispo-Paso Robles).

The Federal Register notice and supporting documents can be accessed [here](#). Comments are due Friday, March 19, 2021.

For further information, please contact James D. Fitzsimmons, Chair, Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards Review Committee at [statistical\\_directives@omb.eop.gov](mailto:statistical_directives@omb.eop.gov).

## **Property Tax Postponement Deadline Approaching, February 10**

Last week, State Controller Betty T. Yee reminded California homeowners the deadline to apply for California's Property Tax Postponement (PTP) program for the 2020-21 tax year is February 10. Funding for PTP is limited, and applications are processed in the order they are received. Participants must reapply each year and demonstrate they continue to meet eligibility requirements.

Homeowners in the following counties affected by wildfire have been granted an extension to file until June 1, 2021: Butte, Del Norte, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba.

Applications and additional program details can be found [online](#) or by calling (800) 952-5661.

## **Assembly Member Weber Confirmed As California's Secretary of State**

On Thursday, the California Legislature officially confirmed Governor Newsom's nomination of Assembly Member Shirley N. Weber (D-San Diego) as the next Secretary of State. First announced in December, Governor Newsom's official nomination of Dr. Weber was submitted following Alex Padilla's resignation from the position, as the Governor nominated him to the U.S. Senate.

During the confirmation process this week, the Assembly Special Committee on the Office of the Secretary of State (Committee) met to consider the nomination of Assembly Member Weber. The Committee, co-chaired by Assembly Members Marc Berman (D- Palo Alto) and Evan Low (D- San Jose), addressed a variety of issues including minimum voting age, flexibility and convenience for voters, countering misinformation, and accuracy of the voter rolls. In addressing these issues, Dr. Weber spoke of the important relationship between counties and the state in providing voters with access and confidence in the voting process. With bipartisan

support, the Committee unanimously recommended her confirmation. The following day, her nomination was approved by the Assembly and the Senate Rules Committee voted to recommend to the Senate that her nomination be confirmed. The Senate, in a vote on Thursday, made the confirmation official. Following the swearing in, Dr. Shirley N. Weber will become the fourth woman and first African American in California's history to serve as Secretary of State.

## **GO-Biz Announces Permit Streamlining "Olympics" for Electric Vehicle Charging**

By April 22, 2021—Earth Day—the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) seeks to recognize jurisdictions that have complied with Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station permit streamlining by awarding Gold, Silver, and Bronze recognition "medals." Assembly Bill 1236 (Chiu, 2015) required all jurisdictions to streamline permitting necessary to install EV charging infrastructure.

The state has set ambitious climate change and Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) readiness goals. GO-Biz continues to offer assistance to local government agencies on AB 1236 compliance, including best practices and streamlining templates. Contact [zev@gobiz.ca.gov](mailto:zev@gobiz.ca.gov) for more information or direct assistance.

## **New Release: 2020-21 California County Scorecard of Children's Wellbeing Available- Join the Webinar February 3**

This week, Children Now released the 2020-21 California County Scorecard of Children's Well-Being, an interactive tool that delivers data on how kids are doing in each of California's 58 counties, and tracks 39 key indicators of children's well-being – over time, by race/ethnicity and relative to other counties – from prenatal to the transition to adulthood. The focus, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, has been largely on adults – addressing issues related to the retail and entertainment economy and to seniors. Children Now has found that the outlook for California kids is troubling, as they are struggling disproportionately. Increasingly experiencing stress, social isolation, disconnectedness and serious mental health issues, the learning loss and lack of preventive health care because of the pandemic threatens this entire generation.

To learn more about the Scorecard, and how to use it to improve outcomes for kids in your community, join this free webinar:

Date: Wednesday, February 3  
Time: 2:00 p.m.  
[Register Today!](#)

Children Now Presenters:  
Ted Lempert, President

Kelly Hardy, Senior Managing Director, Health & Research  
Lishaun Francis, Associate Director, Health Collaborations

To ask questions or set up a time for an individual technical assistance session, email Children Now at [research@childrennow.org](mailto:research@childrennow.org).

## **Historic Giant Sequoias Fall Victim To Mono Winds**

*By B.J. Hansen/ MyMotherlode.com/ Feb 1, 2021*

Yosemite, CA — One aspect that Yosemite is well known for is its towering Giant Sequoias, and the Mariposa Grove was notably impacted by a powerful storm system last month.

The National Park Service has been assessing the damage in the park after a Mono wind event left behind damage to trees and buildings on January 19. Hit hardest was the southern portion of the park where the Mariposa Grove lies.

Park officials report that at least 15 mature giant sequoias fell.

Yosemite officials have put out a statement, "As heartbreaking as this is for all of us, it is a reminder of the dramatic lives these quiet giants can live. Sometimes standing for 3,000 years or more they are witness to the full range of events that nature has to offer. With a variety of pest-resistant adaptations and resistance to fire, a mature sequoia tree almost always dies from toppling and this rot-resistant wood may lie quietly with us for centuries more."

The park also has 15 special "named sequoias," and it is believed that all of those survived.

The Mariposa Grove remains closed at this time. Falling trees caused damage to the restroom and the boardwalk.

## **A bad omen for 2021? There were 297 wildfires in California in January, nearly tripling five-year average.**

*Damon Arthur / Redding Record Searchlight / Feb. 2, 2021*

It's not supposed to be wildfire season in California. Yet, a month into 2021, the Golden State has more than doubled the number of wildfires from 2020 – a record-setting year with more than 9,600 blazes that blackened more than 4 million acres.

And the number of acres burned on nonfederal land last month was more than 20 times the state's five-year average for January.

While the rain and snow of the past week may make last year's fire season seem like a distant memory, those numbers are a reminder that wildfires have become a year-round concern in the nation's most populous state.

In January, there were 297 fires that burned 1,171 acres statewide on nonfederal lands, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

During the same period last year, there were 97 wildfires that burned 22 acres. The five-year average for January is 108 fires, with 58 acres burned, according to Cal Fire.

Firefighters extinguish hot spots in the Dersch Fire off Millville Plains Road where the wind was gusting on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020. The fire burned 133 acres and is 100% contained

While January finished with rain and snow storms, wind and dry conditions settled over some parts of the state earlier in the month, said Christine McMorrow, a Cal Fire spokeswoman.

"So why more fires than last year? It's really hard to say exactly," McMorrow said. "But we did have quite a few fires pop a couple of weeks ago, and I think it's just a good reminder that the majority, 95%, of fires are human caused. And when we have conditions that are just right, such as wind and low humidity it's easy for those fires to get big enough that the fire department needs to be called."

A strong wind blows flames and debris onto Placer Road where firefighters were parked Sunday afternoon, Sept. 27, 2020, during the Zogg Fire.

The biggest fire of the year, so far, was 685 acres on the Wind Wolves Preserve in southwest Kern County.

McMorrow said many fires are put out before they become large enough to garner headlines in the news.

When including fires on U.S. Forest Service lands, the count for January jumps to 345 , according to Cal Fire.

While it's too early to predict this year's wildfire season, McMorrow said, precipitation totals continue to lag, putting most of the state in an ongoing drought. As of Jan. 26, most of the state was in severe to extreme drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Drought conditions, however, reflect more than just rainfall, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. When the agency sets drought levels, it also measures how much water is in streams, lakes, and soils compared to the usual for the same time of year.

The "atmospheric river" that blasted the Sierra Nevada Mountains with more than seven feet of snow last week only brought snowpack to about half of its average for this time of year and less than a third of its yearly average, according to the California Nevada River Forecast Center.

California's largest reservoirs remained at relatively low levels, too.

Shasta Dam is just under halfway full, or about two-thirds of average for this time of year. Millerton Lake, another critical reservoir for the southern and central Sierra, is about one-third full.

"We always welcome a good storm like this, but one week doesn't make a winter, and one week doesn't change a dry situation," David Rizzardo, chief of the hydrology branch at the state's Department of Water Resources, told the Sacramento Bee.

## **Calaveras County Sheriff's Office investigating IED planted near Campo Seco trailhead restroom**

*Calaveras Enterprise / Feb 3, 2021*

A specialized robot is deployed by the Calaveras County Sheriff's Office bomb squad. The bomb squad coordinates with federal agencies to receive equipment at no cost to the department.

The Calaveras County Sheriff's Office bomb squad was sent to investigate a possible "pipe bomb" near a portable restroom at a trailhead in Campo Seco on Jan. 23.

According to a sheriff's office news release issued on Tuesday, the device was reported by an East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) employee at about 10:45 a.m. and was located in the 2000 block of Campo Seco Road in Campo Seco, near Valley Springs.

The unit was determined to be a homemade improvised explosive device (IED) that appeared

to have failed to function and detonate as designed, the sheriff's office stated. The device was rendered safe by the bomb squad and is currently under investigation.

"The device appeared to be an air tank that is commonly used in paintball sports. The device was about 9 inches long and about 2 inches in diameter. The air tank was filled with gunpowder and had a fuse in the neck," the release reads. "It was determined the destructive potential of this device could have caused serious injury."

EBMUD manages the 29-mile-long Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail near Pardee Reservoir, which incorporates trailheads including the Campo Seco Staging Area.

The sheriff's office at this time has not provided any additional information regarding the ongoing investigation.

## **New property tax laws will impact transfers between family members**

*Calaveras Enterprise / Feb 3, 2021*

On Nov. 3, 2020, California voters approved Proposition 19, which, beginning Feb. 16, will significantly change property tax laws, specifically for families transferring real property between generations.

Calaveras County voters largely opposed Proposition 19 during the 2020 general election, with 60% voting "no."

The complicated measure, also known as "The Home Protection for Seniors, Severely Disabled, Families, and Victims of Wildfire or Natural Disasters Act," provides tax breaks for homeowners who are 55 and older or disabled, as well as those who lost a home due to a natural disaster.

However, Proposition 19 is bad news for children who inherit a home they do not want as their primary residence.

"Once operative, Proposition 19 only allows for a parent's primary residence to be transferred without a property tax increase if their child keeps the home as their primary residence," the California Board of Equalization (BOE) stated in a news release. "In addition, Proposition 19 caps the transferable amount equal to the home's taxable value at the time of transfer plus \$1 million. The \$1 million allowance will be adjusted annually beginning in 2023. Family farms can also be eligible but further clarification is expected from the State Legislature."

Now, the BOE is advising families to rethink their property transference plans before the new rules come into effect in two weeks.

"Families who planned to leave property to their children should immediately evaluate their options and make a decision that's best for their own circumstances," BOE Chairman Antonio Vazquez said in the release.

Taxpayers can visit [www.boe.ca.gov](http://www.boe.ca.gov) for the latest information on Proposition 19.

## ***My COVID vaccine experience – Joyce T.***

**Hi all,**

Thanks to Colleen Platt, I was able to call Mark Twain Hospital (754-2968), speak to a living person and give them the information to help them prioritize me into their records. Because of my age and existing medical issues I was put at the top of their list. I was called Monday and had my appointment for Tuesday.

The site was easy to access, well set up and well staffed and the line was not too long.

**I had no problems during, after or today. It will take 14 days for the shot to be fully effective.**

**My next appointment is set.**

**We are moving forward and it is nice to feel hope again, finally!**

**Take care and stay safe. Please continue to mask, wash, separate and vaccinate!**

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Funding Opportunities Newsletter  
for February/March 2021:**

[Funding Opportunities Newsletter | Sierra Nevada Conservancy \(ca.gov\).](https://ymhp.com/zEXin2)

Click the link above to view this electronic newsletter published every two months containing information on upcoming grant and funding opportunities for the Sierra Nevada region. The



newsletter includes federal, state, and private foundation funders as well as additional resources and information related to grant funding. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy provides the Funding Opportunities Newsletter as a free resource under its Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program.

## February the Boy Breughel

by Norman Dubie

The birches stand in their beggar's row:  
Each poor tree  
Has had its wrists nearly  
Torn from the clear sleeves of bone,  
These icy trees  
Are hanging by their thumbs  
Under a sun  
That will begin to heal them soon,  
Each will climb out  
Of its own blue, oval mouth;  
The river groans,  
Two birds call out from the woods

And a fox crosses through snow  
Down a hill; then, he runs,  
He has overcome something white  
Beside a white bush, he shakes  
It twice, and as he turns  
For the woods, the blood in the snow

Looks like the red fox,  
At a distance, running down the hill:  
A white rabbit in his mouth killed  
By the fox in snow  
Is killed over and over as just  
Two colors, now, on a winter hill:

Two colors! Red and white. A barber's bowl!  
Two colors like the peppers  
In the windows  
Of the town below the hill. Smoke comes  
From the chimneys. Everything is still.

Ice in the river begins to move,  
And a boy in a red shirt who woke  
A moment ago  
Watches from his window  
The street where an ox  
Who's broken out of his hut  
Stands in the fresh snow  
Staring cross-eyed at the boy  
Who smiles and looks out  
Across the roof to the hill;  
And the sun is reaching down  
Into the woods

Where the smoky red fox still  
Eats his kill. Two colors.  
Just two colors!  
A sunrise. The snow.

From *Selected and New Poems*, published by W.W. Norton & Co., 1983. Copyright © 1983 by Norman Dubie. All rights reserved.



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[www.calaverascap.com](http://www.calaverascap.com)

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