



**Chair**  
Supervisor Kelly Long

**Vice Chair**  
Supervisor Susan Ellenberg

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## UCC Board of Directors' Meeting Summary June 24, 2020

Alameda:	Amy Shrago (Alternate)
Contra Costa:	Lara DeLaney
Fresno:	Jeannie Figueroa (Alternate)
Los Angeles:	Brian Stiger, Donna Seitz
Orange:	Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, Peter DeMarco, Nicole Wordelman
Riverside:	
Sacramento:	Steve Cruz, Audrey Ratajczak
San Bernardino:	Josh Candelaria (Alternate), Nicole Wordelman
San Diego:	Supervisor Greg Cox, Caroline Smith
San Francisco:	
San Joaquin:	Supervisor Tom Patti, Jolena Voorhis
San Mateo:	Connie Juarez-Diroll (Alternate), Steve Cruz, Audrey Ratajczak
Santa Clara:	Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, Michael Rattigan
Ventura:	Supervisor Kelly Long, Sue Hughes

**I. Call to Order**

UCC Chair Supervisor Kelly Long convened the meeting and called the members to order.

**II. Roll Call of Counties**

There were five supervisors, four alternates and 12 counties represented at this meeting.

**III. Approval of May 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes – Action Item – APPROVED**

A motion was made to approve the May 27<sup>th</sup> minutes and below is the vote count:

Member	County	Yes	No	Absent	Not Voting
Supervisor Long, Chair	Ventura	X			
Supervisor Ellenberg, Vice-Chair	Santa Clara	X			
Supervisor Carson (Alternate)	Alameda	X			
Supervisor Glover	Contra Costa			X	

Supervisor Mendes (Alternate)	Fresno	X			
Supervisor Ridley-Thomas	Los Angeles			X	
Supervisor Bartlett	Orange	X			
Supervisor Washington	Riverside			X	
Supervisor Peters	Sacramento			X	
Supervisor Hagman (Alternate)	San Bernardino	X			
Supervisor Cox	San Diego	X			
Vacant	San Francisco			X	
Supervisor Patti	San Joaquin	X			
Supervisor Groom (Alternate)	San Mateo	X			
<b>Vote Total</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>5</b>	

#### IV. UCC Advocacy

##### IV-A: The Bob Report

Bob Giroux with LHOM reported on various aspects of the state budget, including areas of the budget where compromise did not exist between the two houses (i.e., language to exempt large-scale solar from the split roll ballot measure in November and a measure that would exempt from CEQA a UCSF construction project at the Parnassus campus). Bob reported that the Legislature will have more work to do regarding the state budget when the houses return after the summer break.

##### IV-B: 2020-21 State Budget

Jean Hurst with HBE provided an update on the 2020-21 State Budget agreement. She noted that negotiations have been unusually difficult given the pandemic and have taken a lot longer than hoped. The budget agreement can be characterized as fairly positive given the state's fiscal circumstances and the dramatic increase in service responsibilities. The Senate Budget Committee met, while this meeting was taking place, to go over the budget package. The Assembly Budget Committee will be meeting tomorrow, then both houses will go into session to vote on the final package. Some outstanding issues have not been finalized, such as the DJJ Realignment component. We anticipate that additional discussions on these and other items will resume when the Legislature returns from summer recess.

The federal funds trigger has been modified, which essentially says that if the state receives an additional \$14 billion of flexible federal funding by October 15<sup>th</sup>, a number of items will be funded; specifically, additional resources will be provided to counties to backfill the loss of realignment funding. If the federal funds are less than \$14 billion, but more than \$2 billion they will allocate it proportionately among the items listed in the budget.

The CARES Act allocation in the May Revision included \$1.3 billion to counties to address COVID expenses. While all urban counties have already received direct federal funding from the CARES Act, there is an additional amount coming from the state dedicated to homelessness, public health, public safety and other programs. Cities will receive \$500 million in CARES Act funding for the same purposes. The language in the budget trailer bill requires local governments to adhere to guidelines set by the US Department of Treasury, and the state's stay-at-home order and any associated public health guidance. Governor Newsom in his noon press conference today made it clear that he felt

strongly about the state stay-at-home order compliance and noted there will be a requirement to certify that counties are in compliance before funds are received. Staff is currently in discussions with the Department of Finance to determine a process for that, but the idea is that the money gets out the door as quickly as possible.

An additional \$550 million provided in the CARES Act will support Project RoomKey. These funds will be administered on a grant basis through the California Department of Housing and Community Development. There will be an application created for allocation of the \$550 million. Trailer bill language will provide CEQA exemption if certain conditions are met and the trailer bill exempts projects from Article 34 of the state Constitution, which would require a public vote prior to building certain types of affordable housing. The budget also includes \$300 million in state General Fund for cities, counties, and continuums of care to continue the Homelessness Housing, Assistance Program (HHAP) and also sets aside \$50 million at HCT to assist in properties purchased under Project RoomKey. The budget also provides not quite \$100 million in funding, which is a combination of federal and state funds to assist counties in conducting the 2020 elections.

Kelly Brooks with HBE provided an update on the Realignment backfill agreement in the State Budget, which includes \$1 billion for counties related to revenue loss associated with realigned programs. Of the \$1 billion, \$750 million will be allocated as part of the normal budget process; the remaining \$250 million is tied to the trigger mechanism. If additional federal funds materialize, counties could receive all or some portion of the additional \$250 million. The Realignment backfill included specific language that counties will support Health and Human Services entitlement programs, entitlement programs and programs serving vulnerable populations. Additionally, the budget language specifies that the Department of Finance (DOF) along with California State Association of Counties (CSAC) will develop a countywide allocation schedule to distribute the funding. Additionally, similar to the CARES Act funds, the Realignment backfill is tied to county compliance with emergency declarations and stay at home orders. A schedule will have to be developed, so it will not be ready to go out by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

There were a few proposed cuts in health and human services programs, but most were rejected by the Legislature. One of the programs slated for cuts that impact counties is child support. The budget reduces funding to 2018 levels statewide. Child support is one of the budget reductions tied to the trigger mechanism. If additional federal funds materialize, child support funding could be restored. The budget agreement also provides flexibilities around the Mental Health Services Act in recognition of the revenue declines. The budget agreement also allows counties to draw down CalFresh without a local match.

Elizabeth Espinosa with HBE provided an update on the DJJ proposal in the state budget, starting with a reminder of how things had progressed to this point. The Governor proposed in the May Revise to realign the full responsibility for the juvenile justice to counties on a prospective basis. UCC – in a joint letter with CSAC and RCC – expressed opposition to the initial proposal, given the limited timeframe to negotiate an agreement with significant policy implications. However, it became clear very quickly there was broad support in the Legislature, so the county associations began to negotiate for maximum funding, protections, and additional time. A general framework that has been shared with UCC reflects the latest understanding of the approach the Administration has embraced. Although the budget assumes certain provisions associated with shutting down intake into the state's youth detention facilities in 2021, the trailer bill to enact those provisions is not yet in print and is not expected to be acted on until after the summer break. The Legislature plans to vet the proposed framework in a budget subcommittee hearing and seek additional public input.

Elizabeth also pointed out a feature of the state budget package that sets aside \$65 million a year starting next July to provide backfill associated with the elimination of criminal justice fees. This policy conversation has been ongoing for several years, with legislative interest – such as SB 144 (Mitchell) – growing in eliminating authority to charge certain court related administrative fees. UCC’s position has been to acknowledge the necessity of rethinking the financial burdens placed on users of the court but also to point out the need to backfill counties for loss revenue, should policies be enacted to eliminate fee authority. Staff will keep the Board informed on developments.

#### **IV-C: UCC Hot Bills Report**

Jean Hurst provided an update on UCC Hot Bills. She noted that a number of legislative ballot measures are moving through the process. June 25<sup>th</sup> marks the constitutional deadline for sponsors of qualified ballot measures to withdraw them from the ballot. To date, only the first iteration of the split roll measure has been withdrawn. The Legislature continues to move to place measures on the ballot. The Senate approved ACA 5 and ACA 6 in which voters will consider a repeal of the current affirmative action ban and voters will consider whether parolees may be eligible to vote. The Legislature has also given themselves additional time to approve some other ballot measures. SB 300 was amended, which gives the Legislature more time to place items on the ballot. ACA 11, which is a compromise measure sponsored by the California Association of Realtors, is a proposal which would allow home owners aged 55 or older, disabled, or victims of wildfire the ability to move to another county and take their lower assessed value to their new home. ACA 25 temporarily permits members of the Legislature to remotely attend and vote in a legislative proceeding when a state of emergency has been declared by the President or Governor. Staff believes this will likely be approved by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Bob noted the legislature has until July 23 to put measures on the ballot. He also noted that there are still conversations around options that could stimulate revenue. If it is necessary, a supplemental ballot pamphlet can be printed to accommodate measures approved last minute for the ballot, at a cost of \$4 to \$5 million. Elizabeth noted that at our next UCC Board of Directors’ meeting in August, the primary conversation will be to have UCC evaluate and potentially take positions on November ballot measures of greatest consequence to urban counties. The UCC advocacy team will be talking with the chair and vice chair on the ballot measures before the next Board meeting.

#### **IV-D: Update on State’s Re-opening Process**

Kelly Brooks provided an update on the state’s re-opening process. She noted that the Governor held a press conference to share data around the re-opening earlier this week. Although he did not say it, she thinks the Administration is becoming nervous about the increase in positive cases, hospitalizations, and ICU visits. She noted that over the past 14 days there was a 29% increase in hospitalizations. At the end of his press conference, he talked about local accountability and making sure folks are following the rules and if not, there are consequences for that.

Supervisor Long noted that one of the things counties can do is to educate communities to slow down the spread by staying socially distant. It is important to remind people that we still have to follow certain rules and regulations.

#### **V. Supervisor Roundtable**

Staff has provided this agenda item for Supervisors to discuss current issues of impact and/or importance in their communities.

**Fresno** – Fresno County is dealing with a situation relating to the jails. Before transferring inmates to state prisons, COVID testing was done and all persons tested negative. However, once transferred 13 inmates tested positive. They are getting a third testing site set up in their county.

**Orange** – Orange County is starting to open up businesses in stage 3. However, hospitalizations and ICU's usage rates have started to rise. They have closed 6 restaurants for deep cleaning purposes due to COVID incidents. They are focused on doing a better job of educating and getting folks to comply with the regulations.

**San Diego** – San Diego County is focusing on the 3 Ts: testing, tracing, and treatment. With more testing, they are seeing more positive test results, which is not surprising.

**San Joaquin** – Their county supervisors have met with their medical director, Dr. Parks, and got pretty good analytics. They have had farm workers and laborers working in the past couple of weeks which spiked the numbers some; however, they are finding in their county that disease spread is tied more family related contact. As one example, one person went to a family birthday party and wound up getting 14 people sick. Dr. Parks noted that it would be more efficient to do messaging versus tracing because people are not as conscious getting it from family and friends vs. restaurants or other outside contact. Another area of priority is seeking more guidance from the state with regards to youth sports, given the value and benefits of outdoor activities for kids and the reduced transmission risk in outdoor settings.

**Santa Clara** – Their county has opened up youth sports summer camps, as long as participation is limited to the same group of kids everyday. Supervisor Ellenberg inquired if this could be an opportunity to recast something like sports camps in other counties. She noted the challenge with her county has been very cautious on the approach to reopening. A growing concern is the impatience of business owners in personal care services (gyms, nail salons, etc.), some of whom are threatening to reopen in a coordinated but unsanctioned manner. Supervisor Ellenberg asked if other counties are directly engaging with health officers prior to the announcement of new orders. Supervisor Greg Cox noted that in San Diego County that he and another member of his board work directly with the CAO and public health officer, which has been a good model. Supervisor Cox said his county has a daily call at 8:30 a.m. on the current status and have two press conferences per week, which gives them a chance to share information with the public. Supervisor Long reported that Ventura county has taken a similar approach.

**Ventura** – Ventura County's testing numbers have been great. Their Public Health Department has been directly calling people to let them know if they tested positive/negative, however they are looking at trying to streamline and automate that process. They are concerned about being put on the state's watch list, so they are focused on education. They have had some very challenging board meetings with public input challenging face mask compliance. Budget and funding remain a huge concern because they have to provide a safety net. She also noted a need for flexibility from the state/ federal government. The county has put \$10 million into business recovery/relief and rental assistance to keep people in housing. With regards to Project RoomKey, they have three motels saying because of insurance they can no longer have folks there, which adds to the funding and resource concerns.

## **VI. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**VII. Topics for Next Meeting**

Bob will provide an update on the ballot measure landscape. He updates a slide deck every six months on various aspects of the ballot (state and federal elections, various demographic information, etc.) He will update it in July and send it out to the Board.

Supervisor Long would like the members to share what industries in their counties they believe are most important to get opened back up. She noted if we rally around those industries together, we could have a lot more power and impact. She asked that counties send their input to Grace.

Supervisor Ellenberg noted that in her county the first to open up was construction, but what she is seeing and concerned about is the small often women- or minority-owned businesses. They often are not eligible for recovery relief and may not have a voice to advocate for themselves.

Supervisor Lisa Bartlett from Orange County noted that through the CARES Act funding their county took \$75 million of the funding and divided amongst their five districts and put together a grant program specific to help small businesses and non-profits with certain criteria to meet. She is hoping to give small businesses a boost financially. Applications are coming in and the grant award is \$10,000 for 25 employees or less.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Our next UCC Board of Directors' meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.** via conference call.