



# Agenda

## POTENTIAL SALES TAX MEASURE AD HOC COMMITTEE

May 13, 2020  
2:00 P.M.

The Public may observe and participate in the Virtual Zoom Meeting by using this link or calling in using this Phone Number and Meeting Id:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81621242125>

Meeting ID: 816 2124 2125  
Phone Number: + 1 669 900 6833

Supervisor John Gioia, Co-Chair  
Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, Co-Chair

### Agenda Items:

Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

1. Introductions
2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to three minutes).
3. Receive Record of Action for the May 8, 2020 Potential Sales Tax Measure Ad Hoc Committee Working Group.
4. Receive needs assessment document presented by the Potential Sales Tax Measure Ad Hoc Committee Working Group.
5. Discuss next steps for the work group and direct staff as necessary.
6. Adjourn

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*The Potential Sales Tax Measure Ad Hoc Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend Potential Sales Tax Measure Ad Hoc Committee meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting.*

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*Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Potential Sales Tax Measure Ad Hoc Committee less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 651 Pine Street, 10th floor, during normal business hours.*

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*Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.*

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For Additional Information Contact:

Lisa Driscoll, County Finance Director  
Phone (925) 335-1023, Fax (925) 646-1353  
[lisa.driscoll@cao.cccounty.us](mailto:lisa.driscoll@cao.cccounty.us)



# Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

## Subcommittee Report

### POTENTIAL SALES TAX MEASURE AD HOC COMMITTEE

**Meeting Date:** 05/13/2020

**Subject:** Record of Action for the May 8, 2020 Potential Sales Tax Measure  
Ad Hoc Committee Working Group

**Submitted For:** POTENTIAL SALES TAX MEASURE AD HOC COMMITTEE,

**Department:** County Administrator

**Referral No.:** N/A

**Referral Name:** Record of Action

**Presenter:** Chris Wikler

**Contact:** Chris Wikler (925)  
521-7100

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#### **Referral History:**

County Ordinance requires that each County body keep a record of its meetings. Though the record need not be verbatim, it must accurately reflect the agenda and the discussions made in the meeting.

#### **Referral Update:**

Attached record of action.

#### **Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

Receive Record of Action for the May 8, 2020 Potential Sales Tax Measure Ad Hoc Committee Working Group.

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#### **Attachments**

Record of Action May 8, 2020

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## POTENTIAL SALES TAX MEASURE AD HOC COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP

RECORD OF ACTION FOR  
May 8, 2020

### Working Group Meeting Co-Chairs:

Mariana Moore, Ensuring Opportunity Campaign  
Joshua Anijar, Contra Costa Central Labor Council

Present: Mariana Moore, Co-Chair  
Josh Anijar, Co-Chair

Staff Present: Chris Wikler, BOS District IV; Lisa Driscoll, County Finance Director; Timothy Ewell, Chief Assistant County Administrator

Attendees: Jess Jollett, Dan Geiger, Rebecca Rozen, Stephen Hoeft, Doug Leich, Tricia Piper-Bennett, Jim Ross, Will White, Ali Uscilka, Mabel Lam, David Sharples, Vincent Wells, Sean Stalbaum

1. Introductions
2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to three minutes).

***No public comment was offered.***

3. Receive Record of Action for the February 25, 2020 Potential Sales Tax Measure Ad Hoc Committee Working Group.

***Approved as presented.***

4. Review of finalized needs assessment document to be presented to the Potential Sales Tax Measure Ad Hoc Committee.

***Working group members shared revisions to the draft needs assessment document. Language in the "Proposed Solutions" and "Sales Tax Working Group" sections was revised to help be more inclusive of the individuals and groups who participated in the development of the needs assessment. Revisions were suggested also within the health section to provide more accuracy as far as the budget deficit for the Contra Costa County Regional Medical Center. Chief Assistant County Administrator Timothy Ewell provided an update on the efforts to move SB 1349 forward in Sacramento. The bill will be***

*heard by committee on May 21 and many cities within Contra Costa County have written letters of support for this bill. Mr. Ewell indicated that the passage of SB 1349 is required in order for the County to list a sales tax measure on a future ballot and it is critical for stakeholders to focus on and prioritize the outcome of that legislation at this time. The Co-Chairs shared next steps for bringing the needs assessment document to the full Potential Sales Tax Ad Hoc Committee with Supervisors Mitchoff and Gioia.*

5. The next meeting is currently scheduled for May 13, 2020.

*The next meeting of the Potential Sales Tax Ad Hoc Committee will occur on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm via Zoom.*

6. Adjourn

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For Additional Information Contact:

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# Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

## Subcommittee Report

### POTENTIAL SALES TAX MEASURE AD HOC COMMITTEE

**Meeting Date:** 05/13/2020  
**Subject:** Receive Finalized Needs Assessment Document for Potential Sales Tax Measure Ad Hoc Committee  
**Submitted For:** POTENTIAL SALES TAX MEASURE AD HOC COMMITTEE,  
**Department:** County Administrator  
**Referral No.:** N/A  
**Referral Name:** Needs Assessment  
**Presenter:** Mariana Moore and Joshua Anijar      **Contact:** Chris Wikler (925) 521-7100

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#### **Referral History:**

The Potential Sales Tax Measure Ad Hoc Committee Working Group held its first meeting on December 2, 2019 to discuss broad vision and goals statements, as well as some specific needs in the community that members of the group as a whole identified. Over the course of five months the Working Group has worked on a needs assessment.

#### **Referral Update:**

Attached Needs Assessment.

#### **Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

Receive needs assessment document presented by the Potential Sales Tax Measure Ad Hoc Committee Working Group.

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#### **Attachments**

Contra Costa County Needs Assessment

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# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In March, a local emergency was declared in Contra Costa County in response to Covid-19.<sup>1</sup> Such poignant examples of how interconnected our health and wellness is have not been felt since the Great Depression. To date, over 30 million jobless claims have been filed in the United States. Contra Costa County is feeling the impacts as more individuals and families are finding new ways to stay housed, keep food on the table, and receive necessary medical care.

Even before the recent Covid-19 pandemic, Contra Costa County faced extreme public health risks arising from shortages in county budgeting and spending. With over 150 eligibility worker vacancies, Contra Costa County's most vulnerable residents struggle to obtain life-saving and stabilizing services. A \$32 million budget gap at the County Hospital is likely to be an increasing cost and may result in the closure of invaluable health programs and staff redundancies. Coupled with a lack of funding for necessary medical practitioners at community-based health resources, it is clear that the emergency preparedness for the county and residents must be addressed.

As funding dries up and vital public and nonprofit services become less accessible, residents are experiencing increased wait times for health and safety-net services. County first responders are reporting an uptick in non-emergency call-outs as residents are lacking options on where and how to obtain the care they need.

As the adage goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. To shore up access to medical and behavioral health services, and bolster county safety-net programs, the Board of Supervisors has charged us with assessing the needs of our county residents in the context of a **potential 0.5% sales tax increase**.

## Findings

- As many cities within, and the County overall, are struggling with budget deficits, the COVID-19 response has exposed the need for new revenue streams to support county residents during unprecedented emergencies.
- Under-investment in preventative and safety-net services is creating an increase in costs to taxpayers and county coffers.
- Without the financial resources to fund resident health, safety-net, affordable housing and early child care services, inexorably taxpayers are spending more to address bigger problems arising from shortfalls in the accessibility and availability of early interventions.
- Targeted investments would save the county money by reducing emergency service expenditures.
- As part of County emergency medical preparedness, it is imperative that the County Hospital, medical clinics, and community-based health resources remain accessible and available for residents.
- By creating a new revenue source, the county can reduce the dependence on money from the general fund in addressing county public health and safety-net needs.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/03/12/coronavirus-number-of-confirmed-cases-in-contra-costa-county-is-up-to-16/>

## Voices from the Community

"Before being enrolled in CARES, managing my diabetes was more difficult. I often missed work when my blood sugar was too high. With CARES, I don't have to worry about the cost of the appointment or lab tests. And Brookside keeps me on track by calling me when it's time for my next appointment. Having access to medicine has helped stabilize my health."

- County Resident

"During a regular check-up, I saw a child who exhibited behavioral problems and other signs of urgent mental health challenges. I initially referred the family to a mental health service provider in the same clinic, but due to restrictions the clinic was unable to treat the child without a diagnosis. I then referred them to a non-profit service provider, but their waiting list was too long. Finally, I reached out to a mental health provider that I know personally in hopes that my young patient could be seen. However, a few months later at my patient's next check-up, the child was still awaiting diagnosis as the parent had not heard from any of the providers which I attempted to refer them to."

- Local Pediatrician

"Since the Family Justice Center began tracking interpersonal violence data in 2015, we have observed an uptick in domestic violence, violence against children and elders, sexual assault, and human trafficking in Contra Costa County. By removing barriers to services, victims have found it easier to seek the interventions they need to change their lived experience. As we enter week 7 of the regional shelter-in-place order, we are witnessing an alarming increase in police reports of domestic abuse, and anecdotal stories of child and elder abuse. But the fact that formal child abuse reports have declined by 50% and elder abuse by 30% since shelter-in-place began makes all of us worried. In times of county emergency and prosperity, reliable public funding is critical to protect the vulnerable in our community and break cycles of abuse."

- Susun Kim  
Executive Director

## Needs Assessment: Health and Emergency Services

County health services require a new funding source to keep facilities open and preserve the accessibility of medical care so that any patient – regardless of income or background – can receive the treatment they need to maintain their wellness. The County's ability to respond to emergencies and provide crisis funding for both emergency services and medical facilities has been accentuated during COVID-19.

Even before the current pandemic, residents faced the closure of the county's only public hospital and medical clinics which provide life-saving care within our community. Already Contra Costa Regional Medical Center has seen a hiring freeze that has impacted hiring and forced some clinics to cut hours.

In addition to the county hospital, community-based health care clinics, like La Clínica de la Raza, are integral to providing quality care to vulnerable populations in Contra Costa County. More than ever, it is critical to ensure that these clinics have the funds that they need to employ appropriate numbers of healthcare professionals to meet the cultural and geographic needs of county residents.

To ensure community health, fire districts across the county must operate efficiently and effectively. Since July 2017<sup>2</sup>, a lack of funding in East Contra Costa has resulted in the operation of only 3 east county stations covering 259 square miles and over 120,000 residents. This lack of resources has placed additional pressure on neighboring fire districts, mainly the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, which now respond to east county emergencies four times out of every one occasion that an east county station has capacity to respond.

Determinants of wellness extend beyond physical and mental health care and are further described in the safety-net section of this report.

### The needs of public and community health facilities include:

- ✓ Backfill funding for the current hospital deficit
- ✓ Adequate medical provider staffing to deliver appropriate levels of care, maintain accessible treatment hours and reflect cultural and geographic diversity
- ✓ Reopening closed fire districts to ensure efficient emergency response

<sup>2</sup> [Analysis of the District's Legal Authority and Obligation to Provide Fire Protection Services, September 29, 2017.](#)

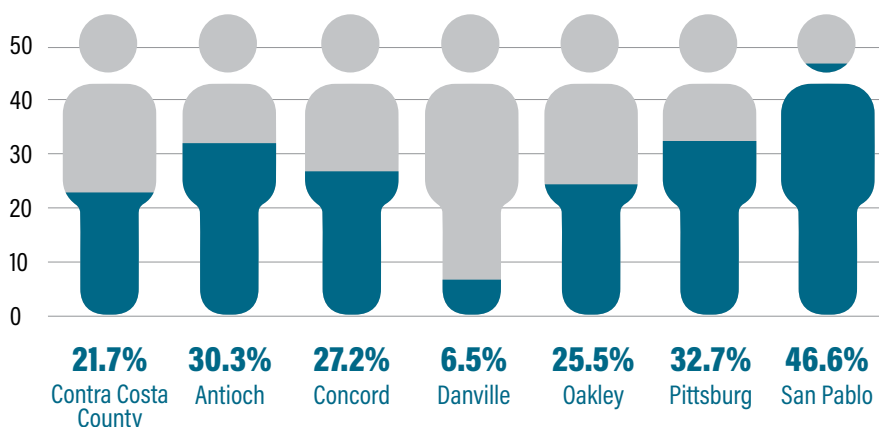


## Needs Assessment: Safety Net Programs

Across Contra Costa County in 2017, **21.7%<sup>3</sup> of county residents fell below 200 percent of the poverty level**, with the worst levels (46.6%) in San Pablo. In the current pandemic, an April 2020 report from the Economic Roundtable indicated that 40% of county workers face a high risk of unemployment, with 84% deemed “not essential,” 62% unable to work from home, and 40% who are not salaried employees<sup>4</sup>.

Since 2016, Contra Costa County has lacked a combined **178 county social workers and eligibility workers** who are instrumental in assisting county residents experiencing poverty and homelessness access state and federally funded programs to help meet their needs. To comprehensively manage community needs during this medical emergency, and in times of prosperity, our food banks must have sustainable inventories, legal advocacy and community outreach require adequate staffing and funding to help residents obtain full government benefits, prevent eviction, and link residents with healthcare benefits, interpersonal violence protection, emergency housing, and job training and re-entry programs as we're able to reopen our economies.

### Residents Below 200% of Federal Poverty Level



### Domestic Violence Screening Calls



As income disparity grows in Contra Costa County, safety-net programs reduce economic inequities. By adding public and nonprofit **critical wraparound** services for county residents- including child and elder abuse protection, behavioral health, alcohol or substance abuse treatment programs, legal advocacy for low-income and undocumented residents, and social service and workforce development for residents re-entering society, we begin to level the playing field and navigate pathways toward holistic wellness.

## County Needs for Safety Net Programs Include

- ✓ 97% of the funding for safety-net eligibility workers is provided by state and federal dollars already paid by our county taxpayers. A small, but targeted investment by the county would fill these vacancies to help our most vulnerable residents access services to meet their needs.
- ✓ Bolster county funding for safety-net providers – e.g. alcohol and substance abuse treatment, interpersonal violence prevention, and legal advocacy– struggling to operate in Contra Costa County with rising day-to-day costs.
- ✓ Increasing the availability and accessibility of county's safety-net programs will prevent vulnerable individuals from needing to rely on county fire and emergency services for lower level of care needs.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov/poverty>

<sup>4</sup> *In Harms Way*, Daniel Flaming and Patrick Burns, April 2020

## Needs Assessment: Housing

California has a serious housing crisis and Contra Costa County is experiencing more than its share of the crisis. The California Housing Partnership found that Contra Costa needs 32,000 affordable rental homes to meet demand from very-low-income and extremely-low-income residents<sup>5</sup>. This low-income housing scarcity, and the resulting dramatic rise in rents, is a leading cause of homelessness, with 2,295 people experiencing homelessness – more than 70% of them unsheltered – in the 2019 point-in-time count – a 43% increase since 2017.<sup>6</sup>

Solving our housing crisis is beyond the scope of the revenue to be generated by the proposed sales tax, but these revenues could be used as County matching funds to leverage new State funding for affordable housing production and preservation, and to alleviate homelessness.

**Some of the proven programs to meet our housing needs that could be implemented or supplemented with new revenue include:**

- ✔ **Greater investment in homelessness prevention** – cost-effective, one-time or short-term assistance to keep people at risk of homelessness in their homes. This strategy is used effectively by Contra Costa's homelessness Continuum of Care and should be supplemented.
- ✔ **Develop of community land trusts** or similar housing trusts for pre-development investment in land acquisition.
- ✔ **Funding for rent subsidies**, such as existing Rapid Rehousing programs, to stem the tide of displacement and help meet the housing needs of low-income residents.

In a very real sense, housing is healthcare. Unsheltered homeless people make an average of five emergency-room visits each year and providing them with housing has been shown to significantly reduce emergency-room visits and their overall healthcare costs. Numerous studies have shown that housing can be provided at less cost than the additional use of emergency-room and related healthcare and additional law-enforcement interactions that come from living on the streets.

## Needs Assessment: Early Childhood

Children and Infants are one of Contra Costa County's most vulnerable populations. Research shows that **a child's brain develops most dramatically during the first five years of life**, yet far too many children in Contra Costa County lack access to high-quality early learning and care services and childhood comprehensive health needed.

Studies show that every dollar invested in early education saves seventeen dollars in reduced costs for remedial education, incarceration and social support.<sup>7</sup> Child care and the child care workforce are of paramount importance as a critical service for economic recovery.

### Childcare

17,900 children ages 0-5 years who are eligible for subsidized child care cannot access it due to low supply. Child care shortages are caused in part by low wages of child care workers, approximately half of whom are eligible for public assistance despite working.

### Mental Health

7,000-10,000 children have unserved mental health needs according to reports by Health Providers in the county.



<sup>5</sup> Contra Costa County's Housing Emergency Update, May 2019, Danielle M. Mazella and Lindsay Rosenfeld, California Housing Partnership

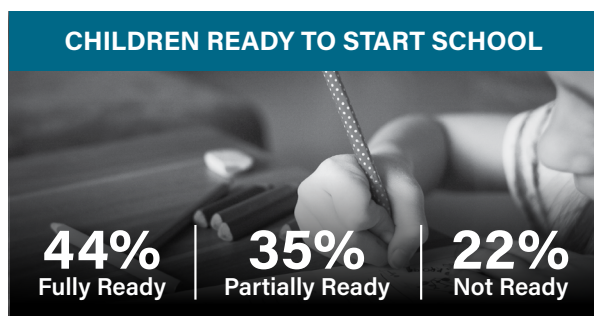
<sup>6</sup> 2019 Point in Time factsheet, Contra Costa Health Services

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/new-research-early-education-as-economic-investme.aspx>

## Early Learning

Only 44% of children in Contra Costa County met the definition of “fully ready” for kindergarten; 35% were partially ready; and 22% were not ready to start school. Antioch, Pittsburg and west Contra Costa have the highest concentrations of poverty and the lowest rates of children “fully ready.”

With the widespread closure of child care services, during the current Shelter-in-Place order, child care services are utilizing home visiting and parent education programs to improve child outcomes and prevent child abuse during these unprecedented times.



### The needs for this community include:

- ✓ **Improve ECE workforce pay to improve early learning program quality**
- ✓ **Expand parenting support and early childhood development services**
- ✓ **Expand a coordinated early ID and intervention system to improve service delivery for children up to age 5**

## Sales Tax Working Group

Co-chaired by Mariana Moore, of Ensuring Opportunity Campaign, and Joshua Anijar, of Contra Costa Central Labor Council, the Sales Tax Measure Ad Hoc Committee Working Group represents stakeholders from public health and safety-net providers including:

- **ACCE**
- **Budget Justice Coalition**
- **California Nurses Association**
- **Contra Costa Labor Council, AFL-CIO**
- **Community Clinic Consortium**
- **East Bay Leadership Council**
- **Ensuring Opportunity**
- **Firedoll Foundation**
- **First 5 Contra Costa/Family Economic Security Partnership**
- **Healthy & Active Before 5**
- **Hospital Council**
- **Human Services Alliance**
- **IFTPE Local 21, AFL-CIO**
- **Lift Up Contra Costa**
- **Multi-Faith Action Coalition**
- **Public Defenders Association**
- **SEIU 1021**
- **Supervisor Karen Mitchoff's Office**
- **Teamsters IBT 856**
- **United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County**
- **United Way Bay Area**

*These entities met and developed the needs in this report. As the specific language for a potential sales tax measure has not yet been introduced, they may not be in a position organizationally to endorse solutions at this time.*

Our working group representing public health, nonprofit and labor entities across Contra Costa met during regular public meetings.

## Needs Assessment: Proposed Solutions

Based on needs assessment discussions and county voter polling, levying a 1/2 cent sales tax in Contra Costa County can create a new revenue source that directly addresses accessibility to and availability of health resources including the County Hospital and community-based health resources, expands county emergency services, adds capacity for eligibility workers - with minimal financial investment from the county - to link our most vulnerable residents with the resources they need to stabilize and improve their lives, establishes leveraging opportunities to improve housing security, prevents interpersonal violence against residents of all ages, and ensures that the children of Contra Costa County have access to necessary health resources and enriching learning opportunities which are both accessible and affordable.

### Sales Tax Working Group Co-Chairs

#### Mariana Moore, Senior Director

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