

On March 6, 2020, Monterey County declared a state of local emergency as a precaution to prepare for the local impact of COVID-19. While Monterey County has not had any confirmed cases of COVID-19, mobilization efforts to take preventative measures are in full effect.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic and communities across the nation, including Monterey County began to build upon initial preventative measures and began to close non-essential operations to help prevent the spread of the virus. The 2020 Census Complete Count Committee is comprised of a cross sector of jurisdictions and as all are now forced to redirect their capacity to respond to the outbreak, there is a diminishing capacity to administer the Census in addition to pragmatic and logistical challenges caused by the outbreak itself. Setup and launch of local operations including community kick-off events focused on raising awareness about the importance of the census and instantly provides internet access for marginalized communities have been drawn to a halt. Any count conducted under these circumstances would undoubtedly result in a severe undercount and the negative impact will specifically target historically disadvantaged communities by the census process.

Given the uncertainty of the timeline for which our communities will return to normalcy and local census efforts could resume, the formal letter to the US Department of Commerce would request that the 2020 Census operations be extended through November 2020.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

This 2020 Census Complete Count Committee has confirmed support of this position by First 5 Monterey County, United Way and the Community Foundation for Monterey County. This report is prepared by the CAO-Office of Community Engagement & Strategic Advocacy with assistance from County Counsel.

FINANCING:

Approval of the recommendation included in this report will not result in additional General Fund contributions.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

Receipt of this report and authorization of the proposed letter supports the selected Board of Supervisors Strategic Initiatives:

- X_ Economic Development
- X Administration
- X Health & Human Services
- X_ Infrastructure
- X Public Safety

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Approved by: Nick Chiulos, Assistant County Administrative Officer
March 24, 2020

Nicholas E. Chiulos, Assistant County Administrative Officer

Date

Attachments are on file with the Clerk of the Board

Exhibit A: Monterey County Letter to US Department of Commerce (DRAFT)