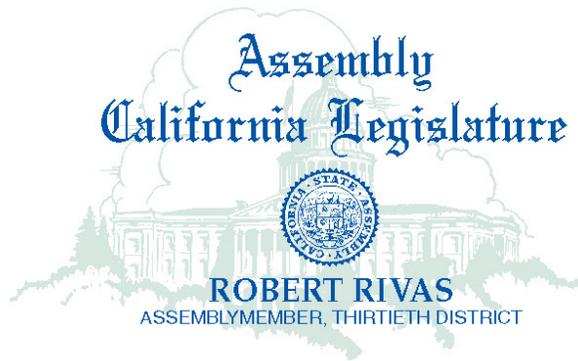


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COMMITTEES  
AGRICULTURE  
APPROPRIATIONS  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
RULES

May 29, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: Essential Emergency Funding – California Fair Network**

Dear Governor Newsom,

We write to inform you of our support for the Network of California Fairs and urge you to modify your funding proposal to benefit all fairs.

Your recently released May Revise includes emergency funding of \$40.3 million from the General Fund “to support state-affiliated fairs that are projected to have insufficient reserves to pay legally mandated costs that may be incurred during the state civil service layoff process, including staff salary, payout of leave balances, and unemployment insurance.” This funding falls far short of the actual need during this crisis and only benefits one part of the Network.

Our concern with the allocation in your budget is it takes from all to provide assistance to a few. The proposal deletes the \$18.6 million included in the January budget in AB 1499 funding, which benefits all fairs, including county fairs and citrus fairs which are not state agency fairs.

While we do not want to minimize the need of those state agency fairs in distress, we also cannot forget about the other fairs in the network, many of which are located in the Districts we represent. When CalFire needs a fairground for a basecamp, OES needs a testing site, or the State needs an evacuation center, no one asks if the property is a county fair or a state agency fair. The fact is all fairgrounds in the state have been shut down and are struggling. Therefore, all of them need assistance.

Our recommendation is to include the AB 1499 funds from the January budget, in addition to \$40.3 million included in your May Revise. As an alternative, your proposal should be revised to reflect \$18.6 million appropriated to the Fairs and Exposition Account to be allocated according to AB 1499 and \$21.7 million appropriated to the Fairs and Exposition Account to serve the emergency purpose outlined in the summary document. While this approach is not preferred, it does provide the equity needed to ensure all fairs have a fighting chance to survive this current crisis.

We appreciate your willingness to consider our recommendations and look forward to assisting you as needed on issues that impact the Network of California Fairs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line and another 'R'.

ROBERT RIVAS

Chair

Joint Committee on Fairs Allocation and Classification

Assemblymember, 30<sup>th</sup> District

Cc: The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Senate Budget Committee  
The Honorable Phil Ting, Senate Budget Committee  
The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Senate Budget Subcommittee 2  
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3  
The Honorable Karen Ross, Secretary, CA Department of Food and Agriculture