



July 7, 2020

D2020-05

To: All DAA CEOs and Board Presidents

On June 29, 2020, the Governor approved a budget augmentation under AB 75, which provided \$40.3 million in General Fund support for District Agricultural Associations and Cal Expo (Affected Fairgrounds) that employ state civil service employees. These funds are directed towards Affected Fairs that are projected to have insufficient reserves to pay **legally mandated costs** that may be incurred during the state civil layoff process. Use of the funds is limited to:

- State civil services salaries, benefits, CalPERS payments, etc. (excludes Exempt/Appointed employees)
- Unemployment insurance costs (EDD payments)
- Payout of leave balances for state civil service employees and Exempt/Appointed employees

It is important to highlight that in view of the limited resources; these funds will only be available to Affected Fairgrounds that are unable to meet all their financial obligations with their current reserves. Also, in order to be eligible for the funds, Affected Fairgrounds must submit to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFFA) the attached application along with the pertinent documents and a layoff plan. With the layoff process typically taking a minimum of six months from start to finish, it is recommended that CEOs start this process immediately as time is of the essence and funding will be distributed on a first-come-first served basis. For assistance to start the layoff process (including the development of a plan), please contact Sarah Pelle, Sarah.Pelle@cdfa.ca.gov.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought fast-moving and unexpected variables that have impacted all sectors of the fair industry. Affected Fairgrounds have done their best to navigate the financial and operational challenges of COVID-19 while still addressing the needs of the community, local stakeholders, and the state partners. These are difficult times and there are going to be many tough decisions ahead. CDFFA is doing its best to provide support to the California fair industry based on the resources that have been provided. I appreciate your dedication and commitment to your local communities. If you have any questions, please contact me at John.Quiroz@cdfa.ca.gov

Sincerely,

John Quiroz
Branch Chief

Enclosure

