



NASA teams with local man for up close look at air quality

Jim Lucas' incredible work with Temescal Valley's PurpleAir sensors garners attention of space agency

What the **We Are Temescal Valley Identity Committee** hasn't been able to do in bringing more attention to our community name -- perhaps **NASA** will give a "boost" to the effort, finally "launching" our identity.

Say what?

The research of **Sycamore Creek** resident **Jim Lucas**, a participant in Temescal Valley's **PurpleAir sensor program**, has drawn the attention of a NASA senior scientist who is involved with satellite systems that measure atmospheric particulates.

Jim was one of about 80 residents who attended a meeting at Trilogy in May 2018 hosted by the **South Coast Air Quality Management District**. Temescal Valley caught the attention of the AQMD when six valley residents with air quality concerns had attended a seminar two months earlier hosted by the agency in Riverside.

At the May meeting, AQMD reps described a new program that measures air quality at the community level, instead of regionally, by using small, portable, low-cost sensors. Residents were able to receive one of 50 sensors the AQMD had dedicated to Temescal Valley air monitoring at no cost if they agreed to keep the device connected for two years. AQMD had purchased 550 sensors with funds received from the **EPA Star Grant** program. The sensors were to be distributed over a four-county area and Temescal Valley was fortunate to receive 50 of them.

See dumping? Report it!

First District **Supervisor Kevin Jeffries** shared this information in his February Jeffries Journal newsletter.

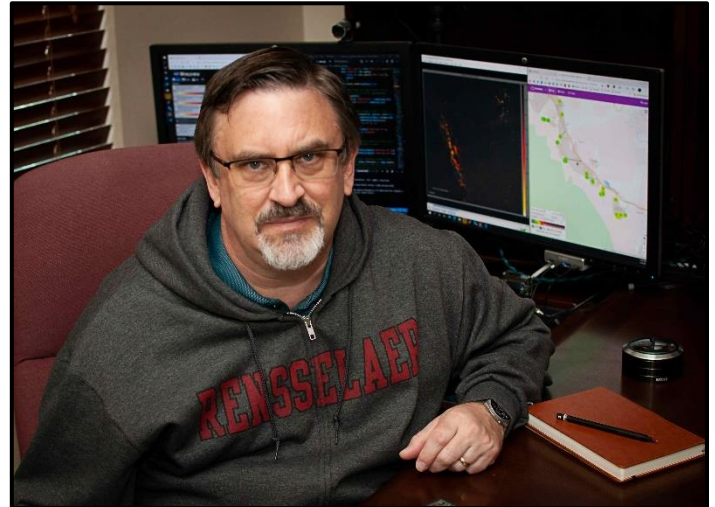
"Trash & Taggers: The efforts by some to bring down our communities with their tagging and trash dumping have always been a problem and it certainly has not stopped because of COVID.

"For those of you who reside in the non-city (unincorporated) communities in the First District, the County has an aggressive clean-up effort available for illegal roadside dumping and/or graffiti abatement. The trick is ... someone must report it to the County first!

"If you live in an unincorporated community and have a problem area - PLEASE give our office a call and report it at **951-955-1010**, or email District1@RivCo.org"

Want to receive the supervisor's monthly newsletter? Signup [HERE](#)

Read the February edition of [Jeffries Journal](#)



DEDICATED: Valley resident Jim Lucas wrote code to assist him in gathering data from the valley's air quality monitoring devices.

We thought a Q&A with Jim would be the best way to tell this story.

Q: What were your expectations when you signed up to attend the first AQMD meeting where we were issued our sensors?

A: Prior to the AQMD Star Grant program we learned that the official EPA sensors are too far away to measure local particulate pollution. My expectation was that we would now have a way to know our actual pollution levels and perhaps learn more about sources that might be controlled.

Q: How did you become so knowledgeable on the capability of the PurpleAir sensors?

A: In the past I've worked in the design and construction of pharmaceutical and fine chemical manufacturing facilities and related pollution control systems, so I had a basic understanding of these types of sensors and data analysis. My road to understanding the PurpleAir devices started with an interest in using the data collected by the sensors to visualize our air quality. I found manually downloading and organizing the data to be very time consuming, so I wrote some simple Python code to do that for me. The code has since evolved to provide additional functions. Over time I've read quite a bit about the sensors and participate in online forums.

Q: A year later at our follow-up meeting with AQMD, the reps were greatly impressed with what you had taught yourself. Were you able to pass on to them what you had learned about the sensors? If so, how has AQMD been able to use that info?

A: The first visualization I prepared caught their attention and they tell me it was well received at the department. I've also shared code with them.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



ASSIGNED: Temescal Valley's Engine 64 spent 21 days this past year on strike team assignments, including the Lake and Silverado fires as well as the Santa Cruz Lightning Complex.

Station 64 responds to 1,822 calls for service in 2020

County Fire/Cal Fire **Capt. Jim Brown** has presented the year-end call totals for **Temescal Valley's Station 64** located in Sycamore Creek.

During 2020 the station responded to **1,822** calls for service with **1,357** of the calls being for medical assistance. Other calls were **152** false alarms, **121** traffic collisions, **74** public service assists, **33** miscellaneous calls, **24** standbys, **20** "other" fires, **12** vehicle fires, **9** residential fires, **8** wildland fires, **6** ringing alarms, **3** rescues and **3** Haz Mat.

The report indicated the station had an average **6.6-minute** response time for the year. **676** or **37.1 percent** of the calls were responded to in under five minutes, **1,116** calls had response times under 10 minutes, **204** calls were under 20 minutes and **32** calls were over 20 minutes.

Call volume increased **13.5 percent** over 2019 and **30.8 percent** over the past five years.

In a January post on the **We Are Temescal Valley Facebook** page, Capt. Brown noted the department's 2020 call volume for the entire county only showed a **1.1 percent** increase over 2019. He indicated the alarming statistic is that four out of the five busiest days were Dec. 23, 24, 25 and 26, with the single busiest day being July 4.

In reviewing the year, he said Temescal Valley's Engine 64 spent 21 days on strike team assignments between the Lake Fire in Los Angeles County, the Silverado Fire in Orange County and the Santa Cruz Lightning Complex.

Capt. Brown also noted, with no advertising outreach to avoid social contact due to COVID, Station 64 received **1,148** Temescal Valley community donations to the holiday **Spark of Love Toy Drive**. "That certainly put a smile on so many little faces," he posted.

He also wrote, "Due to the current pandemic, all Riverside County Fire Stations are restricted from public use. Furthermore, if we do come in contact with you, either on an incident or casually, please continue to properly wear a facemask."

He continued, "If we are called to a medical emergency, please have the patient meet us outside if it is possible to do so safely. This reduces the possibility of exposing the first responders as well as the first responders potentially exposing you."

LUCAS: FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Q: What is your proudest accomplishment with the sensors?

A: I've written code that makes it very easy to download historical data and visualize air quality for any region in the world. I've shared the code and others are now using it to understand pollution in their own local areas.

Q: How did you and NASA hook up?

A: I posted a time-lapse visualization to an online forum that was noticed by a NASA senior scientist. He works with satellite systems that measure atmospheric particulates. After seeing the visualization he realized that this relatively new set of ground-based data provided by thousands of PurpleAir sensors could be used to augment and potentially help calibrate the satellite data. I helped him with a presentation and we have since been writing a technical paper together.

Q: Are you going to use the Temescal Valley sensors for the NASA program?

A: Yes. The first paper we are writing is focused on the Temescal Valley data we've collected since 2018. NASA also is funding another EPA Star Grant program with additional sensors to be deployed in LA and Riverside counties which I am now part of.

Q: When you're not busy with the sensors, what do you do for a living? Where do you work?

A: I'm a Structural and Geotechnical Engineer and my current role is vice-president of project management for a private capital program and project management consulting firm. We manage the planning, design and construction of real estate investments for large corporate clients in a wide variety of markets.

Q: About you and your family; hobbies?

A: We moved to Temescal Valley from Upstate New York in 2006. I was born and raised in the Bay Area. My wife is **Michelle** -- we've been married for 23 years. We have two kids, **Jaden** and **Emily**, 18 and 15, respectively. When younger, Jaden and Emily went to Todd for elementary school, then Elsinore Middle School's Gaining Excellence in Math and Science program and now both attend Temescal Canyon High School IB program. Jaden will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) after graduation this year. I enjoy computer programming and microcontroller systems, motorcycling, golf, skiing, photography, music. I also like fixing stuff.

Q: Finally, did the sensors fulfill your initial expectations?

A: The sensors have provided much needed coverage and information where none existed before. I'm just scratching the surface of understanding how they can answer basic questions about our local air quality.

For background on Temescal Valley's involvement in the PurpleAir program click [HERE](#)

View the sensors at work [HERE](#)

2 new applications submitted to county's Planning Department

Two new applications for Temescal Valley development have been submitted to the county's **Planning Department** for review and comments by county staff. This is the first step in a lengthy process to receive approval for new development or modifications to already approved projects in the county's unincorporated areas.

Residential, commercial, retail uses planned

Bryan Vansell, manager of **Mission Clay Products LLC**, is seeking a pre-application review to divide 28.8 acres into four lots. The acreage is a strip of land stretching between Temescal Canyon and Lawson roads.

Usage of the lots would be 1 -- a single-family residential site, 2 -- a community care facility, 3 -- a commercial office for medical services, and 4 -- commercial retail on Temescal Canyon Road.

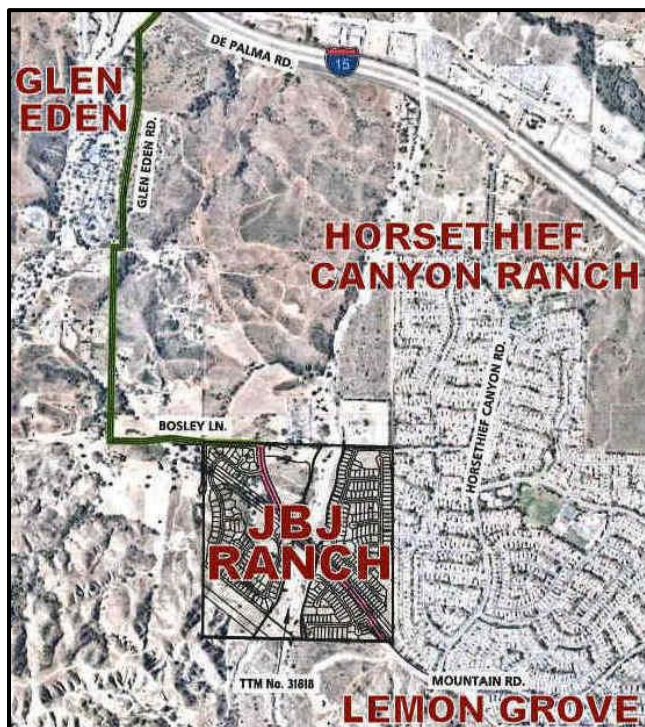
[LEARN MORE](#)

322-home project seeks modifications

Mission Pacific Land Company Inc. is seeking a pre-application review for proposed modifications to the previously approved tract map for "**JBJ Ranch**," a 322-home development. The tract map was approved by the county in 2006 and the project is located adjacent to **Horsethief Canyon Ranch** and south of **Glen Eden**.

Modifications sought include an alternative secondary access point through Bosley Lane to Crilly Road to Glen Eden Road. Modifications also are sought for the development's 10-acre park, incorporating the site's natural features and increasing the use of trails. There is no change in the number of homes.

[LEARN MORE](#)



INTERIM ACCESS ROUTE: The developer of JBJ Ranch is seeking an interim access point to the project via Bosley Lane to Crilly road to Glen Eden Road.



DANGEROUS ROUTE: Crosses on Cajalco Road along the guard rail memorialize victims of fatal accidents.

QUICK HITS ...

WHAT'S UP WITH I-15 EXPRESS LANES? According to **RCTC's Cheryl Donahue**, the lanes are expected to open this spring. "We are continuing to field test the tolling technology and are in the process of training staff for our customer service center. We hope to have information next month about an actual opening date in the spring."

HEADS UP FOR CAJALCO ROAD COMMUTERS: The county's **Transportation Department** is now reviewing bids to install guard rail on Cajalco between Temescal Canyon Road and La Sierra Avenue. It's unknown if the guard rail will be replaced, more added or a combination of both.

"LOVE THAT CHICKEN FROM ..." A request to build a Popeye's restaurant and drive-thru is on the agenda for a county **Director's Hearing** on Monday, Feb. 8. The location is adjacent to the new Circle K at Temescal Canyon and Cajalco roads. It's unknown if Popeye's is still planning a restaurant in the **Toscana Village at Temescal Valley** commercial center to be located at the northwest corner of Indian Truck Trail and Temescal Canyon Road.

Supervisor Jeffries has new First District legislative assistant for Temescal Valley

Samantha Stilwell has joined Supervisor **Kevin Jeffries'** First District staff as a legislative assistant. She spent the past 3½ years with the state legislature, serving as a field representative and district director.



She was actively engaged in the communities of the 67th Assembly District, including **Temescal Valley**, helping to create and maintain relationships with the constituents while focusing on district-based policy.

She is a board member of the **Kennedie June Von Ryan Foundation** and spends most of her free time volunteering with the **PTSD Foundation of America** and **The Warrior Built Foundation**.

Samantha is a Southern California native, born and raised in **Lake Elsinore**. She currently resides in **Murrieta** with her cocker spaniel, Sophie. She is an active lover of the outdoors and spends time traveling to and camping and hiking in the national and state parks.

If you have county issues you need assistance with, email Samantha at SStilwell@rivco.org or call her, **951-955-1010**.



Assisted living facility on track for Temescal Valley

Joel Morse of T&B Planning presented plans at the January meeting of the **Temescal Valley Municipal Advisory Council** meeting for an assisted and independent living facility at the southwest corner of Trilogy Parkway and Temescal Canyon Road.

Representing property owner **Ben Day**, Morse said the **Glen Ivy Senior Living** apartment development to be built on the almost 10-acre parcel would have 75 independent living units, 112 assisted living units and 32 memory care units. The apartments offered would include studios and one and two bedrooms. An operator is yet to be named.

An additional nine feet of property fronting Temescal Canyon Road will be dedicated as right-of-way. The development will have four entrances, two on Trilogy Parkway and two on Temescal Canyon Road.

On Trilogy Parkway, one entrance will have full turning movements; the other entrance, which is closest to Temescal Canyon Road, will be limited to right in and right out. On Temescal Canyon Road, the entrance closest to Trilogy Parkway will be limited to right in and right out only; the entrance furthest from Trilogy Parkway may be either full movement or right in/right out -- no final determination has been reached.

According to Morse, half-width road improvements will be made to Temescal Canyon Road, with improvements to Trilogy Parkway being limited to sidewalk, parkway and median improvements to provide for turning movements.

Morse said Glen Ivy Senior Living will create housing and care facilities for Temescal Valley's aging senior population. It's estimated the development will generate 712 trips per day, fewer trips and less traffic than residential or commercial land uses of the property. It also will create 180 new jobs in the valley. Additionally, the project will contribute about **\$88,000** to the county's **Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee** program.

Morse explained county approval of the project will only require granting a conditional use permit (CUP), because the proposed development is compatible with the property's current land use and zoning designations.

He said they anticipate a public hearing before the county **Planning Commission** in the second quarter of this year. After the date of the hearing is announced, public comments on the project can be submitted to the Planning Commission by email. The public also can comment in person at the hearing.



GLEN IVY SENIOR LIVING: The facility, at the southwest corner of Temescal Canyon Road and Trilogy Parkway, will have 75 independent living units, 112 assisted living units and 32 memory care units. A small commercial element planned earlier for the project has been removed. Pictured above, a conceptual landscaping plan showing the driveways. Below, a conceptual site plan showing the three residential communities. The area on the right is a water quality basin.



Temescal Valley crime stats for November, December, January

Lt. Aaron Kent and Lt. Sarah Mack, with the Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station, provided information on Part I crimes that occurred here during November, December and January.

The station received **353 calls** for service from Temescal Valley during January – **10 fewer** than received in December.

Nineteen calls in November were for Part I crimes, **31** calls were received in December as well as **31** calls in January. No homicides, sex crimes or robberies were reported for the three-month period. Here's the breakdown:

Assault – 3 in November, 5 in December and 4 in January.

Burglary – 1, 4 and 2.

Grand/Petty Theft – 10, 14 and 13.

Vehicle Theft – 4, 4 and 5.

Theft from Vehicle – 1, 4 and 7.



There were **12 arrests in November** – four felonies, including spousal abuse, failure to register as a sex offender, making threats of great bodily harm or death, and a burglary. There were eight misdemeanor arrests – two for outstanding warrants, two for battery and one each for being under influence of a controlled substance, domestic battery, graffiti and reckless driving.

December saw six arrests – three felonies including two outstanding warrants and one for spousal abuse. There were three misdemeanors including domestic battery and public intoxication.

There were **eight arrests in January** – three felonies, including an outstanding warrant, possession of a shuriken (ninja star), and making threats of great bodily harm or death. There were five misdemeanors – two for outstanding warrants, and one each for possession of drug paraphernalia, being under the influence of a controlled substance and disorderly conduct.

There were **four vandalism**s reported for November, **nine** for December and **six** for January. **Disturbing the peace** calls numbered **27** each for November and December, and **43** for January.

New lieutenant point of contact for county's unincorporated areas

Lt. Sarah Mack has been assigned as the point of contact for the unincorporated areas served by the Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station, including Temescal Valley.

Lt. Mack began her career with the Sheriff's Department in 2001 and was assigned to the Southwest Detention Center, working in a correctional capacity. In 2003, she transferred to the Perris Station, working Patrol Operations, Special Enforcement Team, was a Field Training Officer and where she was promoted to corporal in 2010.

In 2012, Cpl. Mack was promoted to Investigator and assigned to the Ben Clark Training Center, overseeing the department's Career Investigator Program. She was later transferred to the Southwest Sheriff's Station Detective Bureau, investigating a wide variety of crimes, including theft, robbery and sexual assault.



Change in command at Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station

A new captain has taken command at the Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station. Capt. Andrew "Andy" Elia has replaced Capt. Michael Lujan who retired in December.



Capt. Elia has been with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department for 20 years after graduating from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department academy in 1999 and serving two years with the city of San Marino Police Department.

After lateraling to Riverside County in 2001, Deputy Elia was assigned to the Jurupa Valley Station, patrolling unincorporated areas of the county as well as the city of Norco. During that time he graduated from the Special Weapons and Tactics academy, was assigned as a Field Training Officer and was a School Resource Officer.

In 2005, he was promoted to corporal while serving at the Moreno Valley Station and was assigned to the Problem Oriented Policing Team. He gained the rank of sergeant in 2008 and transferred to the Robert Presley Detention Center.

In 2010, Sgt. Elia was transferred to the Ben Clark Training Center, followed by a transfer in 2011 to the Jurupa Valley Station where he worked different assignments, including patrol, watch commander, Special Enforcement Team and Administration.

He was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in 2017 and transferred to the Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility, overseeing Operations and Administration.

In 2019, Sheriff Chad Bianco appointed Lt. Elia as the dedicated lieutenant for the city of Norco Police Department -- in effect the city's Police Chief, overseeing the operations of the Norco Sheriff's Office, a satellite office of the Jurupa Valley Station.

Capt. Elia resides in Riverside with his wife and children. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Later that year, she was promoted to sergeant and transferred to the Southwest Detention Center, supervising the facility's training program. She was responsible for coordinating training courses and providing training for all sworn and correctional deputies as well as overseeing the facility's Correctional Training Program for recent academy graduates assigned to Corrections.

Sgt. Mack was transferred to the Cabazon Station in 2016, working in Patrol Operations. In 2017, she transferred to the Ben Clark Training Center, serving as an academy coordinator and supervising the Sheriff's Modular Academy and Reserve Academy.

In 2019, she transferred to the Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station, working Patrol Operations and Administration. She was promoted to lieutenant in 2020.

Lt. Mack resides in the Riverside area with her husband and three children. She has a degree in Administration of Justice, a degree in Psychology and is a graduate of the Sherman Block Leadership Institute.

TEMESCAL VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meets 6 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021 via ZOOM
JOIN US!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84870272415?pwd=Vk1nbG04OGNGemt0T3hPZ3ZQQ3NaQT09>
Phone: 1-669-900-6833 | Meeting ID: 848 7027 2415 | Passcode: 20212021

AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Glen Nelson (Chair), Kelli Noss (Vice-Chair), Bob Hafner, Eric Werner, Jerry Sincich,
Lee Wilson (Alternate) & Fred Myers (Alternate)

Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2021

Reports (3 minutes each)*

- A. Update from CHP
 - B. Update from Sheriff's Department
 - C. Update from CalFire
 - D. Update from Transportation Land Management Agency
 - E. Update from Assemblyman Kelly Seyarto's office
- *when available

New Business

- A. Unincorporated Communities Initiative Outreach
- B. SCE Update on Valley Ivyglen Project and Alberhill System Project

Public Comments*

Representative from County Supervisor Kevin Jeffries' office, Samantha Stilwell

Items for Future Agendas

Date of Next Meeting: March 10th 2021 – via Zoom

* Those wishing to ask one question or make a single comment after a presentation, should raise their hand or complete a speaker's slip. After being recognized by the board, please stand up, state your name and ask your question or make your comment and please sit down.

*New issues raised during the public comment period will not be discussed by the council during that meeting, they may, if warranted, be included as a future item.

*Alternative formats available upon request. If you require reasonable accommodation, please contact DISTRICT1@rivco.org two weeks prior to the meeting.

*The Temescal Valley MAC is advisory to Supervisor Kevin Jeffries, not to Riverside County Staff.
The Temescal Valley MAC meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

1st District Supervisor Kevin Jeffries:
4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor, Riverside, CA 92502
(951) 955-1010 DISTRICT1@rivco.org www.SupervisorJeffries.org

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TEMESCAL VALLY MAC:

<https://www.rivcodistrict1.org/District-Info/Cities-and-Communities/Temescal-Valley-MAC>

COVID-19 Vaccine



WHERE TO GET VACCINATED FOR COVID

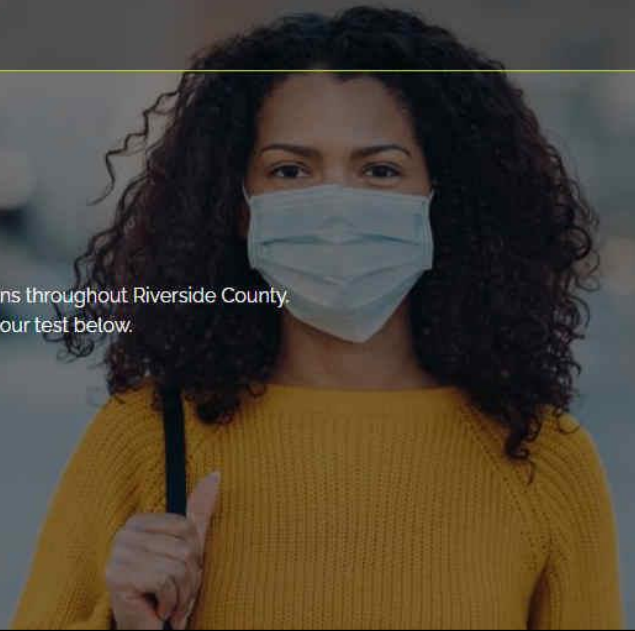
<https://www.rivcoph.org/COVID-19-Vaccine>

Check here regularly for information on all county-sponsored vaccination clinics and a list of community partners offering the vaccine



Covid-19 Testing

Covid-19 testing is now available at multiple locations throughout Riverside County. Find the testing facility closest to you to schedule your test below.



WHERE TO GET TESTED FOR COVID

<https://gettested.ruhealth.org/>

RIVERSIDE COUNTY CORONAVIRUS WEB PAGE

This page has all the latest information – data, numbers, statistics, resources, news releases, videos and more, and is updated daily:

<https://www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus>

[RIVERSIDE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

Vaccine issues, policies from Supervisor Jeffries' Office

UPDATED FEBRUARY 7, 2021

Thank you for contacting Supervisor Jeffries' Office regarding your concerns about the COVID vaccination program. The process to date has been incredibly frustrating for everyone, and we sympathize greatly with the difficulties people are enduring.

This has been a very fluid situation, with very poor communication coming from the State to the County, and apparently from the federal government to the State, making it hard to say anything with certainty.

At the end of January, the Governor and his team announced another series of changes in both the COVID lockdown rules and in the vaccine priorities and processes, and we are still trying to interpret some of them here at the local level, so that we can keep constituents like you informed on what to expect.

One thing we can say with confidence is that the biggest ongoing problem we are having is with the shortage of actual vaccines. We have approximately 800,000 people eligible in the current State tiers/phases and have so far only received about 240,000 vaccines -- and a little less than 100,000 of those have gone to County Public Health. Since each person vaccinated requires two doses, that means we can only serve half as many people.

The announcement by the California Department of Public Health suggests that they intend to take over the eligibility, distribution, and tracking of vaccines in the State, and that counties may be relegated to serving mostly those residents that receive health care from the County (Medi-Cal and indigent care), and helping with clinics in the hard to reach and under-served areas of the County.

It is possible that the State is moving away from the mass vaccination clinics, and toward people receiving their vaccines through their own health care providers and pharmacies, as vaccines have been given historically.

The recent announcement that the Governor has put Blue Shield and Kaiser in charge of the state distribution system seems to confirm that. Unfortunately, the State has still not told the counties exactly what our role will be, so we are awaiting further direction, and focusing on distribution to targeted populations.

That said, we have received many e-mails and calls on various vaccine issues. Here is what we know (or think we know) about the biggest issues of contention, in no particular order:

State Vaccine Registration System Complaints

The first week of mass vaccine registrations was a disaster at the State and County level. Our County website was completely overwhelmed, and if you were lucky enough to make it through to the State site to complete the registration, it was crashing and incredibly non-user friendly.

We fired our web vendor, and developed a new website internally, and for the last mass vaccine registration, the County website worked nearly perfectly.

Unfortunately, the County website really just links to the State website to actually register for a vaccination, and the State website was still terrible, dropping people, crashing, and making them repeatedly fill out the same information only to be told the appointment was already booked. Some people only

found out later they were successful, but we did manage to book 10,000 appointments in 30 minutes.

The State has announced it is launching a new registration site <https://myturn.ca.gov/>, which they promise will be more user friendly, and allow people to sign up for appointments as they come available.

Unfortunately, that site will not be functional for people to register for appointments state-wide until "mid-February," per the Governor. The County also is looking at utilizing an internal registration system, but we need to compare it with the State site and ensure that it will communicate properly with the State site, as they are apparently requiring all systems to integrate with the new State database.

When Is the Next Vaccination Opportunity?

We are not sure when the next mass vaccination registration opportunity will be. Because we are "between websites" for registration, and waiting for further guidance from the State, Public Health has put a temporary halt to the mass vaccination registrations, and will focus on targeted vaccination clinics for seniors (we did 85+ last week, and now have moved to 70+ this upcoming week (Feb. 8), finishing the health care workers and those who need second doses.

We are hoping the new sites will allow for more appointment opportunities to register farther in advance, so we don't have the same problem of 500,000 people competing for 10,000 slots at once. We will announce those registration opportunities (as will our Public Health Department) as soon as we are aware of how and when they will exist.

In the meantime, up to now, private providers, hospitals, health systems, clinics, and pharmacies have been receiving a significant portion of the doses received "by the County," and many of them have finished their first round of administering shots to their own health care workers and staff, and have begun to move on to their own patients and clients.

Some (including Riverside Medical Clinic and Kaiser) are now actively reaching out to their eligible patients, mostly on an age priority basis. The VA in Loma Linda also is now offering vaccinations to eligible veterans. Some are also taking interest lists. This may be the primary model moving forward at the State level.

Priority Tiers for Eligibility

Riverside County has followed the State tiers and phases to determine who is eligible for the COVID vaccine. Based on the announcement at the end of January, everyone will now be subject to those eligibility rules Statewide, and the County will not have discretion in moving categories up or down. The CDPH press release says:

"Simplifying Eligibility: In simplifying eligibility beginning mid-February, the State will implement a Statewide standard under which health care workers, individuals 65+ and education and childcare, emergency services and food and agriculture workers will be eligible to start making appointments to receive the vaccine, pending vaccine availability. These are the groups identified in Phase 1B, Tier

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

1. Future groups will become eligible based on age. This Statewide standard will move in unison across all 58 counties. This will allow the State to scale capacity up while also ensuring the vaccine goes to disproportionately impacted communities.”

Difficulties for Seniors 75+

Trying to compete with half million people for limited appointments on a computer has been very challenging for many of our most senior (and most vulnerable) community members, particularly those without family nearby to assist.

During the pause in mass clinics, the County has focused on this population, including senior only appointments that can be scheduled by phone through our 2-1-1 system. The county now has almost 100 operators for this service.

The 2-1-1 call center has had appointments set aside for this population as they come available -- but even with the increased staff, wait times have been as long as two hours (Hint: Call early in the morning).

The County also now is enlisting the Office on Aging and DPSS to assist in making these appointments and reaching out to high-risk individuals that are already within our County system. Last week's 85+ clinic appointments went extremely well, and we filled 20,000 slots without any issues with the system crashing. This upcoming week we have 17,000 appointments available for those 70 and over.

Second Doses

Many people have now had the first dose and are in need of scheduling their second dose. There also has been a problem with determining which vaccine is available for a second dose at each site on the existing registration site.

Officially, you can receive that second dose after day 21 with the Pfizer vaccine and day 28 with the Moderna vaccine, but the CDC says that you can wait as long as 42 days without concern, so you do not need to panic if you cannot get your second dose exactly three or four weeks from the initial dose.

Up until now, the State has recommended against holding back sufficient vaccines to offer second doses, preferring that counties prioritize getting as many people their first doses as possible.

We also have been unable to schedule appointments more than a week ahead, because of the ongoing lack of supply of vaccines, making it impossible to schedule a second appointment three and four weeks in advance.

Many of the private distributors and providers did reserve second doses for those they were vaccinating, which is one of the reasons the statistics show so many doses undistributed.

Moving forward, the new registration systems are both expected to make registration easier for those who need their second dose, logging which brand of vaccine was received, and tracking “due dates,” so second doses can be easily scheduled.

The county also is hosting clinics and appointment slots specifically for second doses, and notifying those who received their first shots from the County through email and phone calls in the week before their window opens for their second dose. If you received your first dose somewhere other than the County clinics, we encourage you to work with that provider.

Vaccines for Educators

Teachers and educators are part of the Phase 1B, Tier 1 that the State says are currently eligible in every County, but to date there have not been any focused teacher vaccination clinics hosted by the County, as teachers are in a tier with many other classifications.

It is hoped that in the new State-directed system, school districts will be able to work with private health care providers to get their employees vaccinated.

Hoarding Vaccines?

While the County dashboard on the vaccine website shows just over half of vaccine doses received are actually being distributed, the doses received by Public Health, have been distributed as fast as they have been received, and we have no meaningful backlog.

Some of the private providers have been withholding half their vaccines in order to have the second doses available for everyone that received a first dose, and some are just not utilizing the state portal to report their progress on dispensing the vaccines.

Our Public Health team has been manually contacting the private providers to check on their progress and trying to determine which of them are actually failing to distribute vaccines effectively, so that we might be able to adjust future distributions accordingly.

Riverside County is now well above the state average in the percentage of vaccines we have received that have been administered and has the highest ratio of received to administered in Southern California.

Skilled Nursing Facilities

The federal government contracted with CVS and Walgreens to vaccinate residents of skilled nursing facilities and other long-term care residences nationwide, including California. While they are a month behind what the Trump Administration had initially set as a deadline, CVS and Walgreens claim they are “on schedule based on program parameters.”

They have told County Public Health that they are almost entirely complete with dispensing first doses in Riverside County, but we are still working to identify facilities that may not have been covered by the federal contract.

I hope this answered as many of your questions and concerns, at least to the best of our ability with the information we have today, but you can keep updated on the County's vaccine website: <https://www.rivcoph.org/COVID-19-Vaccine>. Announcements regularly are posted on the [RUHS Public Health Facebook page](#).

We are as frustrated as anyone with the communication and the process to this point and will continue to work hard on behalf of our constituents to improve both of those things, so that we might move on to a post-COVID crisis world as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Jeff Greene
Chief of Staff
Supervisor Kevin Jeffries
951-955-1010

