COUNCIL AGENDA: 8/25/20

FILE: 20-941 ITEM: 8.1



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Jacky Morales-Ferrand

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW DATE: August 18, 2020

Approved Date 8/20/2020

SUBJECT: REPORT ON ECONOMIC INDICATORS TO EVALUATE NEED FOR CONTINUING THE EVICTION MORATORIUM AND EXTENSION OF COVID-19 EVICTION MORATORIUM TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) Accept the staff report on economic indicators to guide City Council's decision-making regarding the eviction moratorium.
- (b) Adopt a resolution extending the temporary moratorium through September 30, 2020 on evictions due to nonpayment of rent for residential tenants where the failure to pay rent results from income loss resulting from COVID-19.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of San José is continuing to prioritize housing stability amidst the ongoing Shelter-in-Place Public Health Order from Santa Clara County. Staff continues to receive concerns from residents affected by the pandemic, from tenants who fear homelessness, to small business landlords faced with losing their livelihoods or fear bankruptcy.

Based on staff research, the key findings include:

- *Unemployment remains at unprecedented levels in key sectors.* The San José unemployment rate of 12.4% is higher than the County average and above the peak of the 2008 'Great Recession' in California.
- Unemployment insurance claims by residents of the City of San José are 12 times the volume of claims than was seen pre-COVID. The volume and scale of these unemployment insurance filings continues to break records, driven by a repetitive filing of claims as businesses open, close, and re-open.

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- While some job sectors are experiencing a positive return in employment numbers, other sectors such as retail, hospitality and entertainment lag far behind. Recovery in unemployment is not keeping pace with the recovery in jobs, and there are wide discrepancies in unemployment insurance filings among industry sectors. The sectors of Food Services, Retail Services, and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation have been hit hard. These industries generally employ low-wage workers.
- The pandemic has disproportionately affected low-income communities and communities of color. Since the pandemic began, low-income residents and residents from Latinx, Black and other communities of color have been overrepresented in jobs decimated by the volatility of the job market.

In this memorandum, staff responded to the City Council's direction to research and provide economic indicators that can be used as a basis when considering an extension of the eviction moratorium. The memorandum also provides information on moratoria actions taken by government entities, impacts to landlords, and resources available to both landlords and tenants,

OUTCOME

This memorandum includes a recommendation to extend the eviction moratorium for an additional thirty days, and a staff report detailing the economic indicators that informed this recommendation. Extending the moratorium until September 30, 2020, provides eviction protections for renters still being financially impacted by COVID-19.

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic crisis continues to spread across City of San José along with other jurisdictions throughout the United States. Following Governor Newsom's March 4, 2020 State of Emergency declaration for California, a shelter-in-place Order for Santa Clara was enacted on March 16, 2020 and remains in place to help slow the spread of COVID-19. As of August 17, 2020, the City of San José reported 14,636 confirmed cases and 209 deaths related to COVID-19¹. As a result of ongoing spread of the disease and the shelter-in-place, the City is experiencing an unprecedented pandemic-related economic downturn.

From the onset of the shelter-in-place Order, City Council has taken swift and sweeping action to keep residents housed in the effort to slow the coronavirus spread. City Council actions factor the needs of and impact on the housing ecosystem for tenants and landlords and reflect a multifaceted approach to housing stability, including but not limited to establishing an eviction moratorium (**Table 1**).

¹ https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/dashboard.aspx

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Table 1: Summary of City Council Actions regarding Eviction Moratorium

Date	Summary of City Council Actions
March 17, 2020	 Creation of a Temporary Eviction Moratorium City Council approved a moratorium on residential evictions for nonpayment of rent. The moratorium will be in place for 30 days, and it may be extended by the City Council. To stop an eviction under the moratorium, a tenant must document that their income has been reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
April 14, 2020	 Extension of the Eviction Moratorium City Council approved extending the residential eviction moratorium through May 31, 2020. Repayment Period City Council directed Housing Department staff to draft an amendment to the residential eviction moratorium that would include a repayment period to pay unpaid rent accrued during the Eviction Moratorium
May 19, 2020	 Extension and Amendments to the Eviction Moratorium City Council extended the eviction moratorium through June 30, 2020. A repayment period was established for tenants to pay any unpaid rent that accrued during the eviction moratorium. Tenants must pay at least 50% of the unpaid rent in the six months following the end of the Eviction Moratorium. The remaining 50% must be paid one year after the Eviction Moratorium. Affected tenants and landlords may voluntarily negotiate their own repayment plans. Before a repayment plan is signed, the landlord must provide the tenant with a written notice of their rights under the eviction moratorium related to repayment of past due rent. During the repayment period, landlords may not charge late fees, interest or penalties for the unpaid rent that accrued during the eviction moratorium. Retaliation or harassment against tenants for invoking their rights under the moratorium is prohibited. If a landlord serves a tenant with a termination notice while the eviction moratorium is in effect, the tenant has seven days to notify the landlord that the tenant's income has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
June 23, 2020	Extension of Eviction Moratorium

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A. Federal, State, and County Actions

Federal, state, and county governments have also adopted temporary eviction moratoria as a component of their multifaceted housing stability strategies. Each moratoria vary in duration, eligibility criteria, repayment parameters and enforcement² (**Table 2**). Some moratoria end this month, including Santa Clara County and the City of San José. City of San José eviction moratorium is currently set to expire August 31, 2020.

Table 2: Temporary Eviction Moratorium Adoption and Expiration Dates

	Mar	Apr	May	June	JULY	Aug	SEPT
San José	3/	17				8/31	
Santa Clara County	3	3/24				8/31	
California	3	3/27					9/30

- County of Santa Clara: On August 11, 2020, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors directed County Counsel staff to return with proposals to extend the Eviction Moratorium for residential and commercial tenants beyond August 31, 2020. At the August 25, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting, there will be discussion of a possible extension. For the moratorium on commercial evictions, there were concerns about including stronger protection compliance for tenants to protect against illegal evictions or threats for unpaid rent. For residential, the discussion included aligning the County's deadline with the State Executive Order's expiration date of September 30, 2020 and also other provisions including fees and penalties for violations.
- Judicial Council of California: On August 13, 2020 the Judicial Council voted to end two temporary emergency rules governing evictions and judicial foreclosures, effective through midnight on September 1, 2020. This action enables the courts to accept new unlawful detainer cases.
- President's Executive Order: On August 8, 2020, President Trump signed an Executive
 Order recognizing the need for additional protections for renters. However, the Order did
 not explicitly continue the federal eviction moratorium protecting renters living in
 federally-funded housing as previously established under the CARES Act. Instead, the
 Order directed the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Director of CDC to
 evaluate the need for an extension.

B. Potential Impact on Landlords

Nationwide, economists, housing and eviction researchers are studying moratoria and eviction risk. There is widespread consensus among these experts that a high number of evictions will occur without the moratoria. Further, experts anticipate evictions will be concentrated among

²UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge/Ong &Associates. Paul Ong, Chhandara Pech, Elena Ong, Silvia R. Gonzalez, and Jonathan Ong (April 2020). Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Crisis in Los Angeles: Identifying Renter Vulnerable Neighborhoods. Accessed June 2020.

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those with lower incomes, communities of color, and undocumented workers.³ Researchers at the COVID-19 Eviction Defense Project (Aspen Institute/Bell Policy Center) further predict eviction waves extending to the end of 2020, impacting a wide range of those earning low to middle income.⁴

The <u>National Low Income Housing Coalition</u> and <u>The Eviction Lab</u>/Columbia University are among many experts who report a lack of rental income places rental property owners at risk of harm. Individual investors, who often lack access to additional capital, may be particularly vulnerable. Nationally, "mom and pop" landlords own 47% of rental units in the housing market (22.7 million out of 48.5 million units), and more than half (58%) of mom and pop landlords do not have access to any lines of credit that might help them in an emergency.⁵

Missed and late rent payments bring risk of economic instability to "mom and pop" landlords, according to data from the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP) - a group whose membership disproportionately owns or manages small, often more affordable, rental properties. A NAHREP/Terner Center <u>survey</u> NAHREP/Terner <u>Center survey</u> found the majority of respondents - more than 80% of who own or manage buildings with fewer than 20 units - reported a decline in their rental income compared to the first quarter of the year. One in four landlords reported having already borrowed funds to make ends meet and almost two in five lack confidence in their ability to make ends meet over the next 90 days.

Landlords who evict tenants face court costs, short or long term vacancy, related costs, and the loss of 90-95% of rental arrears via sale to a debt collector or other third party. Short term, the lack of rental income may result in unanticipated costs, and an inability to pay mortgages, pay property taxes, and maintain the property. Long term, it places small property owners at greater risk of foreclosure and bankruptcy⁶ threatening their financial security; two-thirds of the NAHREP/Terner survey respondents indicated that they expected their properties to contribute at least one-fourth of their retirement income.⁷

Staff will continue to monitor both national and local information for insights regarding the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on property owners. Leading associations, such as the California Apartment Association, are expected to conduct a survey of its membership on rent collection impacts due to COVID-19.

³ Working Partnerships/Law Foundation of Silicon Valley. *The Eviction Time Bomb* (July 2020) Accessed July 2020.

⁴ COVID-19 Eviction Defense Project. <u>Colorado's Looming Eviction & Rental Crisis</u>. (May 28, 2020). Accessed July 2020.

⁵ CNBC.com. <u>Small Landlords Struggle As Renters Can't Or Choose Not to Pay Amid Coronavirus Layoffs</u>. (April 2, 2020) Accessed July 2020.

⁶Housing Matters on Urban Institute Initiative. Philip ME Garboden and Eva Rosen. <u>The High Cost of Eviction and the Low Cost of Filing</u> (March 25, 2020) Accessed July 2020.

⁷ National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals & Terner Center for Housing Innovation (UC Berkeley). (July 2020) *How Are Smaller Landlords Weathering the COVID-19 Pandemic?* Accessed August 2020.

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The California legislature is currently considering a number of bills intended to address the financial needs of renters and landlords, including Senate Bill 1410 and Assembly Bill 1436. More information about these and select housing related bills can be found in **Attachment A**.

C. Rental Assistance Provides Financial Support to Landlords and Relieves Rent Obligations for Tenants

A clear action item for the City to address landlords' financial concerns and residents' fear of eviction related to COVID-19 is to provide rental assistance to those in need, with a requirement that the funds go directly to the landlord. To date, the City has awarded \$17.5 million in rental assistance. The majority of the awards are being distributed based on evaluation of vulnerability and need during the intake process.

In addition, the Housing Department is finalizing funding for approximately \$7 million in tenant rental assistance from the City's Coronavirus Relief Funds from CARES to be granted to Sacred Heart Community Services. These funds will also be used to provide relief for tenants impacted by COVID-19. In total, close to \$25 million will provide rental assistance directly to property owners to provide relief for tenants unable to pay their rent (**Table 3**).

Table 3: Summary of Funding Distributed by Agency

Agency	Amount
Sacred Heart	\$11,750,000
Catholic Charities	\$4,000,000
Bill Wilson Center	\$1,000,000
YWCA	\$121,161
Next Door	\$346,485
Destination: HOME	\$7,850,000
	\$25,067,646

This funding will provide financial support to property owners and will relieve tenants impacted by COVID-19 from mounting rent debts.

D. Notices of Terminations Submitted to the City during Eviction Moratorium

Staff continues to receive Notices of Termination served by landlords during the moratorium. From March 18, 2020 to June 30, 2020, approximately 1,689 notices were submitted. Of these, 1,600 notices were for Nonpayment of Rent. After analyzing the Nonpayment of Rent notices, staff made the following findings, comparing the data to the same time period in 2019, as seen in **Table 4**:

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Table 4: Summary of Top 5 Property Complexes that Filed Notices of Terminations for Nonpayment of Rent and Unlawful Detainers

	201 March 18		2020 March 18 – June 30		
	Submitted	Total	Submitted	Total	
Top 5 Property	604 (23%)	2,589	910 (54%)	1,689	
Complex Filers					
Unlawful Detainers	26	6	8* due to court closure		

- Nonpayment of Rent Notices: 54% of all nonpayment of rent notices were submitted by five property complexes, each complex owning more than 150 units. During the same time period in 2019, the same five property complexes submitting the most Nonpayment of Rent notices comprised only 23% of notices. As such, a reasonable inference would be that smaller property owners have not been serving notices as frequently as complexes with more than 150 units.
- *Unlawful Detainers:* Submissions of Unlawful Detainers (UDs) has decreased during this time period, from 266 UDs in 2019, to 8 UDs in 2020. This low number is likely due to the Courts being closed since April.

Since the Eviction Moratorium took effect, the submission of Nonpayment of Rent notices has increased while submission of Unlawful Detainers has dramatically decreased. While local and State Eviction Moratoriums have suppressed the amount of unlawful detainer lawsuits, staff anticipate a sharp rise in submissions of unlawful detainer lawsuits after September 1, 2020, when the Courts are expected to begin accepting eviction filings.

ANALYSIS

As part of City Council direction, staff compiled data on the impacts of COVID-19. Staff undertook a data-driven analysis specific to the City of San José to help guide decisions made on the City's Eviction Moratorium. The indicators and analysis are discussed below, with additional information regarding social factors in **Attachment A.**

I. SUMMARY OF INDICATORS

Staff undertook the following process to determine indicators for the analysis:

- Inventoried indicators used by economic, eviction and housing researchers;
- Catalogued a) the availability of relevant data for each proposed indicator and b) the frequency with which that data is refreshed, recognizing we intend to track and update the analysis monthly; and
- Engaged with stakeholders to gather their perspectives regarding which indicators to prioritize.

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Several key indicator categories emerged, including but not limited to employment, job growth, consumer spending, missed/late rent payments, childcare access/availability, and the ability to afford other basic needs (food, healthcare). Staff narrowed the potential indicators to those that can reflect city-level data and can be updated monthly. Staff also met with stakeholder groups to gain their perspectives. More information on the key indicator categories can be found in **Attachment A** and **Attachment B**.

Subsequently, staff proceeded with an economic analysis to derive insights from employment, unemployment and unemployment insurance volumes and dollar value. Complementing this work, staff included in this report a Renter Neighborhood Vulnerability Index (RVI) conducted by researchers at the UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge for the City of San José. Considered collectively, these economic analyses converge to create an equity-based framework to guide recommendations regarding the Eviction Moratorium.

A. Indicator #1: Employment

June figures show that since shelter-in-place took effect in mid-March 2020, the City of San José has lost over 52,000 jobs (**Table 5**). This represents a partial recovery of 16,200 jobs from the peak loss in April and May of over 78,000 jobs.

Table 5: Employment COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Month on	Since Pre-
						Month	COVID
						Improvement	
	Pre-	Shelter in	Peak	Stable	Recovery		
	COVID	Place	Decline		Begins		
Santa Clara	1,028,100	1,007,600	898,300	898,300	929,100	30,800	(99,000)
County							
City of San	541,300	530,000	472,900	472,900	489,100	16,200	(52,200)
José							

The rate of recovery in jobs must be viewed alongside the overall rate of unemployment for the City and individual claims for unemployment insurance (**Table 6**). In part, this is because the San José labor force is larger than the number of jobs within the city and so relies upon a broader economic recovery in the Bay Area and beyond. The key issue in the monthly change from May to June is that the net reduction in unemployment lagged behind city wide job recovery.

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Table 6: Unemployment COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Month on Month Improvement	Since Pre- COVID
	Pre-COVID	Shelter in Place	Peak	Stable	Recovery Begins		
City of San José	15,100	19,600	75,400	71,600	69,100	-2,500	54,000
Santa Clara County	27,200	35,200	119,400	113,400	110,900	-2,500	83,700
Ratio	55.5	55.7	63.1	63.1	62.3		

In comparing the employment and unemployment figures for the City of San José, data reveal that the recovery in unemployment is not keeping pace with the recovery in jobs. The net changes from May to June reveal that while over 16,000 jobs recovered, resident unemployment fell by only 2,500. This indicates that residents living outside of San José have returned to work in the City, while San José residents remain unemployed.

The data also identifies specific industries that have been hit hard. The prevalence of additional claims varies dramatically between industries, with workers from Food Services, Retail Services, and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation reporting the highest number of claims. With many of these businesses opening, closing, then re-opening, it is triggering multiple filings for employees impacted by this unpredictable working pattern. In many sectors, the share of additional claims has risen dramatically since the peak of the crisis, and is also higher than pre-crisis levels. The Retail Trade industry stands out especially: less than 30% of initial claims from the industry were additional before the crisis, yet nearly 70% of initial claims were additional in the week ending July 25, 2020.

Jobs within the three industries hit the hardest generally employ low-wage workers (**Table 7**). Data published in August by EDD and UCLA identified that since shelter in place workers in low income sectors with variable working hours such as hotels, retail, personal care, and construction accounted for 55% of all initial claims for unemployment insurance in Santa Clara county. This creates a greater challenge for low-income households in our City as residents working in these sectors are more likely to be renters in San José than in other job classes.

⁸TJ Hedin, Geoffrey Schnorr and Till von Wachter. New Analysis: More Than Half of Recent Unemployment Claims are From Californians Who Are Re-Opening Their Claims (August 6, 2020). Accessed August 2020.

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Table 7: Job Trends by Sector by Order of Job Loss (By San José MSA)

Tuble 7. Job Trenus	Feb	Apr	June	Feb-	April-	%	% Not	Feb-
	ren	Apı	June	April	June		Recovered	
				_		Recovered	Necovereu	0 0.1.1.0
				Job Loss	Gain			Job Loss
Leisure &	101,600	52,700	78,000	48,900	25,300	51.7	48.3	-23,600
Hospitality								
Retail Trade	83,200	70,000	70,600	13,200	600	4.5	95.5	-12,600
Manufacturing	174,800	160,800	164,900	14,000	4,100	29.3	70.7	-9,900
Education &	179,700	164,900	169,800	14,800	4,900	33.1	66.9	-9,900
Health Services								
Business Services	243,100	233,000	233,800	10,100	800	7.9	92.1	-9,300
Information	103,700	94,200	94,800	9,500	600	6.3	93.7	-8,900
Government	98,600	97,100	91,700	1,500	-5,400			-6,900
Others	34,800	24,600	29,400	10,200	4,800	47.1	52.9	-5,400
Wholesale Trade	31,000	28,100	28,300	2,900	200	6.9	93.1	-2,700
Financial Act.	38,300	36,300	36,100	2,000	-200			-2,200
Transportation	16,500	14,400	15,600	2,100	1,200	57.1	42.9	-900
Construction	51,200	35,400	51,100	15,800	15,700	99.4	0.6	-100
Total	1,156,500	1,011,500	1,064,100	145,000	52,600	36.3	63.7	-92,400

The National League of Cities recently reported that occupational segregation has resulted in Black and Latinx people being overrepresented in low-wage jobs that cannot be transitioned to remote work and due to COVID-19 related layoffs, Black and Latinx people are more likely to experience housing instability." In addition, the National League of Cities found that across the United States, "in May, Latinx unemployment reached 17.6% and Black unemployment reached 16.8% in comparison to white unemployment that reached 12.4%. As labor market volatility continues, the City of San José must continue to prioritize policies that promote public health and stabilize housing.

B. Indicator #2: Unemployment

The San José unemployment rate of 12.4% is higher than the County average and above the peak of the Great Recession in California. For context, in January 2010, the unemployment rate in San José reached 12.3%. The City's percentage of total County unemployment has risen sharply since shelter-in-place Order from 55.5% to 62.3% of the County total. In terms of the impact this has for the City of San José, the most important issue to recognize is not just the percentage change but the volume change for the city when compared to the rest of the county as revealed in **Table 8** from EDD for June 2020:

⁹ National League of Cities. *Embedding Racial Inequity in Housing*. (July 9, 2020) Accessed August 2020.

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Table 8: Unemployment rates between County of Santa Clara and City of San José

Jurisdiction	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
County of Santa Clara	1,040,000	929,100	110,900	10.7%
City of San José	558,300	489,100	69,100	12.4%

C. Indicator #3: Unemployment Insurance Claims

As the economy becomes more volatile, residents make claims for unemployment insurance. The volume and scale of claims being made by residents within the City of San José is unprecedented. **Table 9** provided by EDD on request from the City of San José sets out the changes since shelter in place took effect.

Table 9: Monthly Unemployment Insurance Claims in 2020

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Average	Scale Change
	Pre- COVID	Shelter in Place	Peak	Stable	Recovery		
City of San José	3,926	41,083	65,303	48,216	31,516	46,530	12
Cumulative # of Claims			106,386	154,602	186,118		

Between March and June, the City of San José experienced a record number of applications for unemployment insurance claims. This number may not reflect how many San José residents found gainful employment. However, the number illustrates that the City of San José is experiencing a repetitive filing of claims, resulting in 12 times the volume of claims than was seen pre-COVID. This underscores the continued volatility in the labor market.

D. Indicator #4: Monthly Benefits Paid Out

Income received from unemployment insurance is critical to residents' ability to pay their bills including rent and other basic needs. EDD publishes monthly the total amount of benefits paid out by County. Staff estimates over the four months since shelter in place the claims made by residents to the City of San José are equivalent to 64% of the County total (**Table 10**). The average monthly amount paid out in benefits since the Order came into effect is \$128 million for the County and \$82 million for the City.

The uncertainty around unemployment benefits necessitates consideration of how much rental assistance an average renter in San José requires in order to pay rent and meet their daily needs. Resolutions to the COVID-19 housing crisis demand an additional infusion of financial assistance. The California Employment Development Department calculates weekly

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Unemployment Insurance benefit amounts, which can range from \$40 to \$450 per week. ¹⁰ According to the California Policy Lab, without the \$600 per week additional benefits from CARES Act stimulus fund, half of all individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits would have received payments below the Federal Poverty Level. This demonstrates the disproportionate impact of the shelter-in-place for not just for low-income households and vulnerable populations, but for unemployed workers generally.

Table 10: Monthly Benefits Paid Out in Millions

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Scale Change
	Pre COVID	Shelter in Place	Peak Decline	Stable	Recovery		
County of Santa Clara	\$14.548	\$21.641	\$139.494	\$188.266	\$165.470	\$128.717	9
City of San José	\$9.310	\$13.850	\$89.276	\$120.490	\$105.900	\$82.365	8.8

II. ADDITIONAL INDICATORS FOR COVID-19 RELATED EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME VOLATILITY

The City of San José Office of Economic Development also formulated an Income Volatility Ratio to help gain insights for this report. Separately, UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge, researchers developed a Renter Vulnerability Index (RVI) for the County of Santa Clara and the City of San José

A. San José Office of Economic Development - Income Volatility Ratio

The City of San José Office of Economic Development analysis presented below provides the following: 1) documents the following measures for the City of San José from February-June 2020 for employment, unemployment, and unemployment insurance, and 3) Unemployment Insurance Volumes and Dollar Value presents an "Income Volatility Ratio" formulated to help identify the scale and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the City's resident labor force at a city-wide and neighborhood level in the context of the changes that have taken place in Employment, Unemployment and Unemployment Insurance Volumes and Dollar Value. The Income Volatility Ratio is designed to provide insight on renters' current ability to resume timely rent payments.

 $^{^{\}rm 10}$ State of California Employment Development Department. Calculator - Unemployment Insurance. Accessed August 2020.

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Data used in the analysis:

- EDD Monthly Unemployment Data
- EDD Unemployment Insurance Data
- EDD Employment Data

Methodology to derive Income Volatility Ratio

- City, county and MSA unemployment volume and rate.
- City and county volume of weekly initial claims for unemployment insurance.
- Total monthly unemployment insurance payments made by EDD at county level.
- Monthly employment data at MSA level

Low-income workers are most impacted by the volatility in the labor market and more likely to be renters. Latinx and other communities of color are disproportionately represented in those job sectors most affected by the pandemic. These residents are consequently at greatest risk of eviction without the Eviction Moratorium.

B. UCLA Center for Neighborhood - Renter Neighborhood Vulnerability Index

To assist public agencies and community organizations in implementing the temporary renter protection policies and identify neighborhoods most in need, the UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge developed a Renter Vulnerability Index (RVI) for each neighborhood in Santa Clara County (**Table 11**, **Table 12**). This index identifies the neighborhoods with a disproportionate concentration of renters "one paycheck away from financial disaster." The information can be used to better target scarce resources to inform the most vulnerable renters about the new protections and to assist them to avail themselves of the temporary relief.

The Renter Vulnerability Index utilizes three dimensions to identify eviction vulnerable neighborhoods:

- A disproportionate large number of renters on the edge of financial vulnerability due to high housing cost burden;
- A disproportionate large number of workers vulnerable to job displacement due to retail and service-sector closures; and
- A disproportionate number of people excluded from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, known as the CARES Act.

Data used in this study include:

- American Community Survey, 2013-2017 and 2014-2018 5-year estimates
- Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, 2013-2017
- Proprietary Data from the UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge

Methodology of Renter Vulnerability Index 2.0 (by Census tract):

- Census tracts with at least 500 renter households
 - Santa Clara County has a total of 372 census tracts of which 215 (58%) have at least 500 renter households. About 85% of the total rental households in the county are located in these 215 tracts.

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- Renters with high housing cost burdens
 - o Proportion of renters who spend >50% of their household income on rent
 - o Proportion of renters who have < \$12,000 annually after paying for housing costs
- Exposure to Job Displacement
 - o Pre-COVID-19 unemployment rate
 - Workers in industrial-occupational sectors most at risk of job displacement due to sheltering-in-place order; includes sales workers in retail, service workers in hospitality, and workers in personal care and service occupations.
- Exclusion from economic relief programs
 - Exclusion from unemployment insurance benefits, thus enhanced UI benefits under CARES Act (\$600 weekly)
 - Undocumented population¹¹ [i]
- Many undocumented residents (or 'families') are excluded from receiving federal pandemic-relief packages such as the one-time cash payments of \$1,200 (to individuals earning less than \$75,000) and the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Table 11: Neighborhood's averages (mean) of the six variables used to generate the RVI

Tuble 11. Neighborhood s	ureruges (meure	oj tite sut	rurustes uset	r to genter at	e tite it i
	Lowest Vulnerability	Low	Moderate	High	Highest Vulnerability
% Severe rent	17%	24%	25%	31%	36%
burdened HHs					
% Renter HHs with less	14%	20%	24%	31%	38%
than 12K					
% Unemployed	4%	5%	4%	6%	9%
% Workers at risk of	10%	12%	18%	18%	22%
job displacement					
% Workers without UI	7%	14%	19%	21%	22%
coverage					
% Undocumented	4%	5%	5%	6%	6%
population					
n (census tracts)	101	49	22	26	17

Note: The reported values in the table represents the average (mean) of all the census tracts in each neighborhood type.

¹¹ [i] Estimate is based on a regression model for Los Angeles County using Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) level data. The dependent variable is the number of undocumented persons divided by total persons. The former comes from an aggregated administrative file for a social-service program. The independent variables are noncitizens as percent of population, percent non-Hispanic Asian, percent Hispanic, and poverty rate. All are from the 2014-18 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. The model has an R-squared of .89, and is weighted by ZCTA population (due to large variance in the population across ZCTAs).

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Table 12: Neighborhood's averages (mean) characteristics (demographic, socio-economic, and housing) by RVI neighborhood type

ana nousing) by R					
	Lowest	Low	Moderate	High	Highest
	Vulnerability				Vulnerability
% non-Hispanic	41%	32%	26%	13%	15%
white					
% Black	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%
% Hispanic	15%	28%	45%	55%	54%
% Asian	37%	33%	22%	28%	25%
% Immigrants	38%	40%	35%	44%	41%
% LEP HHs	9%	11%	14%	22%	22%
% Enrolled in	8%	10%	17%	13%	17%
College					
% Poor	6%	9%	14%	15%	19%
Med. HH	128,658	111,237	79,816	66,492	53,770
Income					
n (census tracts)	101	49	22	26	17

Note: The reported values in the table represents the average (mean) of all the census tracts in each neighborhood type. Neighborhood characteristics derived from the 2014-18 5-year ACS.

Below is a map (**Figure 1**) depicting neighborhoods in Santa Clara County, zoomed into the City of San José, by their renter vulnerability index. The orange areas represent neighborhoods in District 3, 5, and 7 that are vulnerable with darker shades denoting the greatest vulnerability. The blue areas represent neighborhoods that are less vulnerable, with the darker shade denoting the lowest vulnerability.

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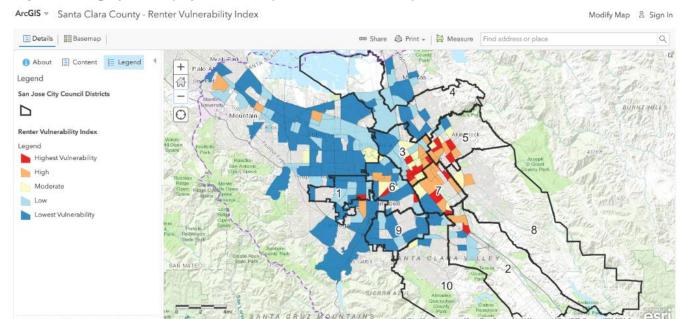


Figure 1: Map of the City of San José by Renter Vulnerability Index

It should be noted that the map displays some college areas, particularly around Stanford University and San José State University, as scoring high on the Renter Vulnerability Index. This is not surprising given that many college students fit the conditions of vulnerability under the Renter Vulnerability Index (e.g. college students are more likely to be renters, unemployed, have lower household income). The Renter Vulnerability Index does not exclude college areas, instead we included a separate layer in the web map to display areas with high concentrations of college students (this information is also included in the data spreadsheet). The map can be displayed side-by-side with the renter vulnerability map to identify vulnerable neighborhoods with a high concentration of college students.

CONCLUSION

The City of San José's labor market and job prospects remain volatile and fragile for many residents. Unemployment remains at unprecedented levels in key sectors, the pace of unemployment insurance filings continues to break records, and while some job sectors are experiencing a positive return in employment numbers, other sectors – such as retail, hospitality and entertainment – lag far behind. This lag is notable as communities that were fragile pre-COVID, including low income, Latinx and other communities of color, are disproportionately represented in those job sectors most decimated by the pandemic. These residents are consequently at greatest risk of eviction without the Eviction Moratorium.

Based on the economic analysis detailed above, staff recommend City Council extend the eviction moratorium for thirty-days through September 30, 2020 and continue to support rent

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assistance programs. The Housing Department will continue to track the impact of COVID-19 related housing programs, including tenant and landlord mediation and rent assistance and how they benefit the rental community.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The Housing Department will track and report back to City Council on economic indicators on a thirty-day basis and moving towards a thirty-day extension period.

CLIMATE SMART SAN JOSE

The recommendation in this memo aligns with one or more of Climate Smart San José energy, water, or mobility goals.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Staff conducted public outreach with rent stabilization jurisdictions with Eviction Moratoriums enacted and stakeholder groups (**Table 13**). In the discussion with jurisdictions of the cities of Mountain View, Santa Monica, and West Hollywood, the rent stabilization programs did not have indicators established to determine the extension of the Eviction Moratoriums. The stakeholders provided feedback that the economic indicators could be consolidated and concise metrics.

Table 13: Public Outreach Feedback Summary on Proposed Economic Indicators

Date	Outreach Group	
August 6, 2020	 Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County Proposed economic indicators categories were thorough Ensure the undocumented community is reflected Reference food support for vulnerable populations to preserve cash for rent 	
August 6, 2020	Rent Stabilization Programs from cities of Mountain View, Santa Monica, and West Hollywood • Proposed economic indicators categories were thorough • Ensure that the City level of data was captured	
August 7, 2020	Stakeholders with California Apartment Association and Santa Clara County Association of Realtors • Review additional data from tenant based rental assistance programs • Include balanced metrics impacting tenants and landlords	

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COORDINATION

Preparation of this report was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office and the Office of Economic Development.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION/INPUT

No commission recommendation or input is associated with this action.

FISCAL/POLICY ALIGNMENT

This action is consistent with the City's *Consolidated Plan 2015-2020*, adopted by City Council on May 5, 2015, to provide homes for very low- and extremely low-income households, and with Goal H-2 of the City's *Housing Element 2014-2023*, adopted by City Council on January 27, 2015, to "increase, preserve, and improve San José's affordable housing stock."

CEQA

Not a Project, File No. PP17-008, General Procedure and Policy Making resulting in no changes to the physical environment.

/s/ JACKY MORALES-FERRAND Director, Housing Department

For questions, please contact Rachel VanderVeen, Deputy Director, (408) 535-8231

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Summary of Principles, Social Factors Research, and State and Federal Housing

Legislation

Attachment B: Research to Identify Potential Economic Indicators

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPLES, SOCIAL FACTORS RESEARCH, AND STATE AND FEDERAL HOUSING LEGISLATION

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt the lives of residents across the City and Country. July 30, 2020 marked six months since the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 pandemic a health crisis. Since the shelter-in-place Order began in March, staff have analyzed the effects of the pandemic on the rental community. This summary intends to increase understanding on the social factors that influence the way residents are responding to the pandemic. The areas of this analysis include: 1) principles, 2) consideration of social factors, and 3) select State and Federal housing legislation.

I. Principles

Staff sought to understand various aspects of the impact of the Eviction Moratorium on San José's rental community:

- The multi-faceted makeup of the rental community: considering the City's diverse renter population and its ability to pay rent in a timely manner, as well as the diverse landlord community which ranges from 'mom and pop' property owners to large corporations.
- Factors that impact the ability of people to return to work so they can earn income to pay rent: Eviction studies reference access to childcare, equitable education access, and an ability to meet basic needs for food and healthcare as factors that can impact an individuals' ability to work (see Attachment B). Importantly, Staff's consideration of whether to include factors related to childcare is guided by language in the City of San José Eviction Moratorium, which includes a definition of an "Affected Tenant" as a renter who suffers from substantial financial loss as a result of job loss, reduction in hours, the need to miss work to care for a homebound, school-age child.
- *Vulnerable populations:* Analysis from a wide range of groups including the Terner Center for Housing Innovation, California Housing Partnership, and UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge underscore findings that individuals with economic instability pre-COVID are at high eviction risk, as are communities of color. Working Partnerships/Law Foundation of Silicon Valley published research concluding communities of color notably, Latinx and Black are at highest eviction risk, estimating more than 40,000 families may face evictions across Santa Clara County. A recent study from Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County examined communities at risk during COVID-19, concluding very low-income, rent-burdened families are teetering on the edge of homelessness. The report further highlights the large number of undocumented residents in San José (estimated at 140,000+²) who have limited to no access to COVID-19 emergency support.

¹ https://ternercenter.berkeley.edu/blog, https://chpc.net/covid19/, https://knowledge.luskin.ucla.edu/2020/05/06/lacovid-19-economic-crisis-renter-vulnerability-index/

² https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/03/11/us-metro-areas-unauthorized-immigrants/ft 19-03-11_unauthorizedmetroarea_fewmetroareas_4/

II. CONSIDERATION OF SOCIAL FACTORS

According to the World Health Organization, social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and these circumstances are influenced by the distribution of money, power and resources at a global, national and local level.³ The ongoing health crisis demands more long-term, localized and sustainable solutions that take special consideration of the social determinants that have resulted in increased vulnerability for some members of the San José community. Staff focused on the following social determinants of health to encourage a more robust discussion around the wide-reaching effects of the pandemic: 1) childcare access, 2) education, 3) food security, and 4) immigration status.

Research has increasingly shown that COVID-19 has influenced these social determinants, resulting in a disproportionate effect on low-income communities and communities of color. Many residents across San José were already at a disadvantage pre-COVID. The interplay between social determinants can have significant effects on COVID-19 outcomes, as illustrated by a Santa Clara County Public Health map highlighting the top five zip codes in San José with extraordinarily high rates of COVID-19 transmission: 95111, 95113, 95116, 95122, and 95127. The interactive map with this information can be found here. Traditionally, residents in these zip codes live in overcrowded conditions, experience lower educational attainment, lower wage earnings and less access to medical care.

A. Access to Child Care

For many families and residents across San José, employment is necessary to pay for critical needs: rent, food, and other basic necessities. However, one barrier to returning to work is access to childcare. If a parent is unable to find access to childcare, they are challenged to return to work. As a result of the Santa Clara County Public Health Orders, available child care slots are limited and as such, not all residents may have access to child care. Consequently, this may restrict a resident's opportunity to go to work and pay rent.

There are 1,032 childcare licensed businesses/organizations in the City of San José. In a recent Bay Area wide study by UC Berkeley's Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, more than 50% childcare providers have had to temporarily close their programs during COVID-19 pandemic and a number have had to permanently closed.⁵ Further, due to social distancing requirements, the capacity for full service childcare diminished by at least 50% for most businesses. For the 241 Family Child Care Providers (FCCH) who exclusively conduct business out of their home in San José, they experience additional business pressures: paying rent, access to Personal Protective Equipment, payroll expenses, fear of eviction if their home is rented. These pressures may decrease the overall availability of childcare services. As a result, these challenges may limit the number of residents able to go to work, which directly influences their ability to pay rent.

In addition to the business pressures faced by childcare businesses, the child-care providers continue to put themselves at risk in order to provide service for workers who are still employed.

³ https://www.who.int/social determinants/sdh definition/en/

⁴ https://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/index.htm

⁵ https://cscce.berkeley.edu/california-child-care-in-crisis-covid-19/

Prior to the pandemic, access to adequate childcare, especially for infant and toddlers, was significantly low in the most vulnerable, densely populated areas of San José. For those in these areas, the pandemic has only amplified those needs. For example, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, in zip code 95116, there were 60 infant/toddler slots, with an estimated 1,083 infant/toddler needs. This translates to a 94% of the infants/toddlers lacking available childcare in this zip code. Access to the interactive map with this information can be found here.

Lack of quality childcare may influence a child's access to quality early childhood education, which has direct correlation to a child's success in elementary school, influencing educational attainment overall, which impacts future access to jobs.⁶

The County recently launched a Childcare Support for Families application portal wherein families requiring childcare may apply to enroll their child in an available slot for childcare.⁷ Families are to indicate how many children they have, the age group of the child, and the radius a family is willing to travel within the particular zip code.

Availability and affordability of childcare services is an essential factor in considering the additional barriers residents may be facing as they make decisions to survive the pandemic. The critical nature of this particular service is evident in the City's recent infusion of almost \$3.5 million dollars to support families in need of childcare services as well as funding for childcare providers.

B. K-12 Schools

Similar to the concerns about childcare, families and residents may be forced to stay at home with their school age child as nearly all schools in San José begin the academic year with Distance Learning. This new method of learning will affect over 129,000 students across San José and their families. This reality is reflected in the City's definition of an "Affected Tenant" in the Eviction Moratorium as one who misses work due to a minor child's school closure.

School closures increase food insecurity for children living in poverty who participate in school lunch programs, while malnutrition causes substantial risk to a student's physical health, lowering immune response, potentially increasing the risk of infectious disease transmission. Whether or not these families will be able to continue providing food for their children is an indicator of the likelihood a family has to pay rent.

C. Food Security

As unemployment skyrocketed during the early stages of the pandemic, pressure on food distribution organizations steadily increased. Food demand across the Santa Clara County increased by over 50% compared to pre-COVID demand. Access to food has become a critical consideration in how affected residents spend their money. As struggling residents continue to be

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⁷ https://www.childcarescc.org/child-care-application

⁸ https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanres/article/PIIS2213-2600(20)30234-4/fulltext

in demand for food, due to job loss or substantial loss of income, the demand for food becomes an indicator that residents may experience challenges to pay rent.

D. Immigration Status

The City of San José is home to a diverse population. The pandemic has highlighted the additional barriers to resources for some members of the San José community including immigrants and undocumented residents.

In April 2020, Catholic Charities conducted a survey of 555 people at three food distribution sites across Santa Clara County, including Our Lady of Refuge in East San José. The survey found that 29% of participants shared that they are seeking immigration assistance but have not been connected to resources. Fear of triggering "public charge" regulations has increased immigrant hesitation to apply for unemployment insurance and CalFresh. However, on July 29, 2020, a federal court ruling prohibited the application and enforcement of the public charge rule that went into effect on February 24, 2020. The ruling is in effect so long as there is a declared national emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Outreach efforts to educated immigrant families about the new ruling must become a priority to connect immigrant families to critical resources.

Undocumented immigrants are typically unable to access public monies, and California's Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants has already completed the application intake phase. Undocumented residents may not have employment that permits working from home, and this community is particularly challenged by the downward trends in the labor market, increasing the potential for members of this community to miss rent payments.

III. SELECT STATE AND FEDERAL HOUSING LEGISLATION

The City of San José has demonstrated leadership in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The policies enacted and the relief dispersed to vulnerable communities has strengthened the City's commitment to promote the public good and stabilize housing. However, additional assistance is required at the State and Federal levels in order to help increase the rental community's resilience.

The following legislative summaries reflect general information that help inform staff on progress at the State and Federal level.

A. State Legislation

The California legislature has proposed several measures seeking to protect rental housing community members challenged by the consequences of COVID-19. Select bills have been highlighted in **Table 1**, below.

⁹ https://covid19.ca.gov/guide-immigrant-californians/

Table 1: Summary of Selected Relevant State Legislation

Bill	Summary of Selected Rela	Effect	Latest Action
SB 1410	COVID-19 Eviction	Prevents evictions for tenants who	Next committee
	Relief	enter into an agreement with their	Hearing Date:
		landlord, defers a tenant's unpaid	8/18/20, in Assembly
		rent to be paid in installments to	Committee on
		the State of California between	Appropriations.
		January 1, 2024, and before	
		January 1, 2034. This bill allows tax credits for landlords in the	
		amount of unpaid rent from a	
		signed tenant-landlord agreement	
		for taxable years between January	
		1, 2024 – January 1, 2034.	
AB 1436	COVID-19 Eviction	Prevents residential evictions	Next hearing date:
	Protection and	during the declared state of	8/18/20 in Senate
	housing stability	emergency and for 90 days after,	Committee on
		for tenants who attest they	Judiciary.
		experience financial distress due to	•
		COVID-19 and creates the Small	
		Landlord and Homeowner Relief	
		Act of 2020, authorizing	
		forbearance for borrowers	
		experiencing financial hardships,	
GT 4444		including mobilehome owners	0 1/10/20 1 1
SB 1431	Property Taxation	The definition of a "disaster" that	On 6/18/20 placed on
	reassessment:	allows local property taxation	suspense file. Bill no
CD 015	disaster relief	reassessment includes COVID-19	longer moving.
SB 915	Prohibit evictions of mobilehome owners	Extends temporary protections	8/03/20: Read second
	and mobilehome	against evictions for mobilehome owners and residents impacted by	time, ordered to third reading, in Assembly.
	residents	COVID-19	reading, in Assembly.
AB 3300	California Access to	Provides \$2 billion in grants to	8/04/20: Hearing
110 0000	Housing and	counties and Continuums of Care	postponed by Senate
	Services Act	to address housing challenges	Committee. Bill no
		8	longer moving.
AB 2406	Homeless	Any landlord that accepts COVID-	6/3/2020: Held under
	Accountability and	19 federal or state assistance must	submission. Bill no
	Prevention Act	list their units in a statewide rental	longer moving.
		registry portal	_
AB 828	Temporary	Statewide temporary moratorium	7/28/20: Referred to
	moratorium on	on foreclosures and unlawful	Senate Judiciary
	foreclosures and	detainer actions	committee, bill not
	unlawful detainer		set for hearing.
	actions		

If passed, these bills may alleviate some of the financial burdens on the rental communities as a result of the pandemic. These policies also present important opportunities in preventing homelessness. Additionally, these measures provide sweeping foreclosure protections to homeowners and housing service providers.

B. Federal Legislation

Both chambers of U.S. Congress have proposed several measures seeking enhancement of protections for residents struggling with the ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic. While many bills have been proposed, including those aimed at generating sustainable funding streams for childcare, additional rent relief for tenants, and mortgage cancellation for affected landlords, most bills have not moved past their respective chamber. Further, there has not been any significant movement on the HEROES Act in the Senate, the bill meant to provide an additional \$1,200 per individual and rental assistance funding. However, on August 8, 2020, the President of the United States signed an Executive Order restoring an extra \$400 in unemployment benefits for Americans unemployed due to COVID-19.

Staff across the City are monitoring the progress of these Federal bills and action taken by the Federal Government. Nationwide assistance would bring relief to many of the City's residents who continue to bear the burdens of a volatile labor market.

RESEARCH TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

A. Background

A recent Turner Center analysis noted evictions result in severe harm; when they become widespread, there are also significant consequences for entire communities and even the speed of economic recovery. Policymakers are actively seeking solutions, but it is difficult to prepare without knowing the size of the problem⁴. This challenge is well characterized in the recent *New York Times* article *Millions of Evictions Are a Sharper Threat as Government Support Ends*.

Timely U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data on employment and earnings do not include household information. Subsequently there is no direct insight into whether workers rent or own, or how much of their household's income goes toward housing costs—key indicators needed to understand the scope of renter vulnerability stemming from the current downturn.

B. Methodology

Staff undertook online research to understand a) *categories* of data that experts use when conducting data-driven eviction-related analyses and b) the *data sets* that correlate with each category.

Staff reviewed reports from across the United States as well as work focused on Santa Clara County and/or City of San José. Partial list of report authors: Apartment List Monthly Housing Payment Survey, California Policy Institute, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, COVID-19 Eviction Defense Project (Aspen Institute/Bell Policy), The Eviction Lab, MIT/City Life-Vida Urbana, NYU Furman Center, Glassdoor Economic Research, International Journal of Housing Policy, Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative, Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, National Low Income Housing Coalition, Liberty Street Economics, National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals/Terner Center Survey, Opportunity Insights OI Economic Tracker, Propublica, Renters and Rental Market Crisis Working Group (Urban Institute), The Terner Center for Housing Innovation (UC Berkeley), UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge, UCLA Ziman Center for Real Estate economic letter, Yelp Local Economic Impact Report and Working Partnerships/Law Foundation of Silicon Valley.

C. Findings

Staff could find no national, state or regional guidelines nor expert consensus for economic indicators to guide a policy-makers decision to extend or lift eviction moratoria. Given a lack of expert consensus or guidelines, we inventoried categories of data that experts are using in the rapidly growing body of evidence. A summary is below in **Table 1**:

Table 1: Categories of Data Category **Financial Unemployment Rate Unemployment Insurance Filings** • Business Sector • CARES Act funding PPE Loans • Consumer Confidence Index • Jobs Reports (lost, recovered, new) Housing Existing Renter Burden (Pre-COVID-19) • Renter Debt (Eviction Moratorium-related) Rent Payments (Missed/Late) Eviction Filings (Court) **Childcare (licensed centers)** Access Capacity **Food** Distribution volume (pounds of food distributed) Meals served

School meals missed/served

Education

- K-12 schools open/closed
- Instruction (in-person, hybrid, remote)
- Technology access (computer, wifi)