



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources
4-H Youth Development Program

**2019-2020 Monterey
County Council Officers**

President –
vacant

Vice Presidents –
Hana Ferguson,
Buena Vista 4-H and
Dena Sala-Jenkinson,
Chualar 4-H

Secretary –
Travis Tanaka,
Buena Vista 4-H

Treasurer –
vacant

**Monterey County
4-H Clubs**

Aromas
Buena Vista
Carmel Valley
Chualar
Greenfield
Gonzales
Hilltown
King City Blue Ribbon
King City Rural
Lockwood
Mission
Natividad
Royal Oaks
San Benancio
Spring

July 16th, 2019

Dear 4-H Community:

In April of 2019, our Leader's Council and the membership were provided with information regarding unexpected University of California 4-H Program staff budgets cuts for the next three years. These statewide staff cuts were initiated by the Agricultural and Natural Resources (UCANR) and will affect our local 4-H Program. This presentation was open to anyone on April 10th and was later sent to every family enrolled in the 4-H program afterwards.

As a result of this unfortunate news, a Committee consisting of current and past 4-H volunteers, stakeholders, and supporters stepped forward to meet with the Youth Development Advisor Lynn Schmitt-McQuitty on June 26th at the Salinas office to ask questions and develop possible solutions

While she was able to share the information she does know, the actual number of the budget cuts and its implications are still unclear at our local level. To date, approximately \$5,000 in staff money was taken from the 4-H Military program and allocated into the regular 4-H Program to cover staff costs. This step was processed by the University of California accounting as part of the solution Lynn had initiated. How much more and where future staff money will come from is still uncertain.

Thankfully, this Community Committee spent time sorting out short term solutions and may consider long term funding solutions in the future. Their written recommendation (attached) was sent to both the Leader's Council and the Community Club Leaders.

As your Council officers we have met and discussed this option (June 27th) and agree that this outlined plan will meet our Program's immediate needs. This proposed plan, that increases enrollment fees for one year, will be discussed prior to the July 23rd Leader's Council meeting. Please plan on attending this Town Hall meeting with a guided discussion starting at 6pm in the large conference room. Based upon that discussion, a vote will be taken during the regular portion of the meeting to move forward with an enrollment increase preventing a possible staff furloughs due to lack of funding.

To clarify, the Council does not have management oversight of the Program Staff nor can we directly pay towards any staff salary. However, we can take in fees or gifts to our account and hold them there until we are issued an invoice from the UC system for staff payroll.

Actions to educate the community have included Maria de la Fuente (County Director), Lynn Schmitt-McQuitty, and Lorin Hofmann-Lurz (Program staff), who attended the Monterey County Farm Bureau meeting on July 11th to provide a local 4-H Program funding update, encourage 4-H involvement, and reduce rumors of what is taking place.

We are also attaching recent information from UCANR Vice President, Glenda Humiston, which shows that the effects of budget cuts are beyond 4-H Program Representatives. (see attached)

In addition to these unplanned staff budget cuts, we must address that we are facing a number of other challenges locally:

- We need a Council President
- We need a Council Treasurer
- Our Council fundraising committee needs more active volunteers
- The 4-H Youth Development Advisor for the Tri county area is leaving and there are no plans to replace her due to a UC hiring freeze

As Council officers, we are considering accessing *Board Development* or training to strengthen our vision, goals and mission for the Council oversight of the local program. Our intention is to encourage any enrolled volunteer to be active in this type of training. Our hope is to build a stronger board that reaches more potential volunteers and to be better positioned when challenges arise that could have a significant impacts on the program.

Here is just one example of the types of local board training we could participate in:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/introduction-to-board-recruitment-registration-64568644554>

Admittedly, the Leaders Council has only had to address small issues over the years. The magnitude of these unforeseen budget cuts to local staff has brought the need for a much stronger supporting Council structure. We appreciate the support of the Club Leaders, Youth Officers and the volunteers to *Make the Best Better*

Thank you,
Monterey County Leaders Council

