

From: May 29, 2020 Board Meeting-Public Comment
To: Srinivasan, Indhubala (Indhu)
Subject: [External] May 29, 2020 Board Meeting-Public Comment
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STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION



Vaughn Villaverde Item # M1

Item Name: Impact of Covid-19 on PT Admin.

Meeting Date: 6/09/20 Minutes Exhibit #: 6.17

PUBLIC COMMENT

Name: Vaughn Villaverde, Working Partnerships USA

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Agenda Item(s):

M1c. Working Group Report – 3: Section 170 Disaster Relief for COVID-19 Calamity

M1d. Working Group Report – 4: Proposition 8 – Decline In Value Relief for January 1 2020

Comment:

Working Group #3 comment: On behalf of Working Partnerships USA, I'm here to urge the State Board of Equalization to reject all of the options presented by Working Group #3 and maintain the current status quo. As the state faces unprecedented fiscal challenges brought about by the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Board should not be considering actions that will reduce funding for schools, which are already facing major budget cuts. Declaring properties to be damaged and in need of disaster relief to lower values is nothing but an attempt by commercial property owners to capitalize on this crisis. Economic losses caused by the pandemic have other ways of being accounted for. At a time when quite frankly the state and local governments could use all the revenue it can get to fund lifesaving relief and supportive services, the proposals being considered today are not only irresponsible, but dangerous. Thank you. Working Group #4 comment: On behalf of Working Partnerships USA, I'm also here to urge the Board to reject all of Working Group #4's recommendations and maintain the status quo. The call for across-the-board reductions in commercial property values during the current crisis is bad policy, especially since base year values are already systemically underassessed. These proposals disproportionately benefit commercial property owners, at the expense of homeowners and critical services we all depend on. The CARES Act already provides substantial tax relief for commercial property owners by allowing them to write off losses against other income and roll back their losses to get refunds from 2017 taxes. The benefit of these proposals will be, at best, minimal for homeowners. However, their impacts to funding for critical services across the state could prove catastrophic. Thank you.