



May 7, 2021

Governor Gavin Newsom
California State Capitol
1303 10th St., Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: COVID-19 Impacts – Fiscal Assistance for California’s Independent Special Districts

Dear Governor Newsom,

We, the undersigned members of the California State Legislature, strongly urge your Administration to extend access for Coronavirus fiscal relief to special district local governments. The time is now and the opportunity is here, to help these vital units of local governments stabilize operations and recover from the unique impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on their agencies, their employees, and their communities.

Special districts provide essential services to their local communities and maintain a large portion of the state’s critical infrastructure, including fire protection and emergency response, healthcare, water and wastewater, electricity, ports and harbors, transportation, resources and agricultural conservation, parks, libraries, cemeteries, air quality management, and more. These special purpose local governments are struggling under the burden of an estimated \$1.92 billion collective unmet fiscal need since the March 2020 Emergency Proclamation. This need is projected to grow to \$2.43 billion by December of 2021.

While other government entities, including the state, schools, cities, and counties have received funding relief, California’s special districts are the only local government entities to have been excluded access to COVID-19 relief funds. Moreover, as public entities, special districts, are also ineligible for the Paycheck Protection Program, business and nonprofit grants, and payroll tax credits.

California has the authority and the revenues to share. Through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Congress has explicitly empowered states with authority to transfer Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery monies to special districts. California will receive \$26 billion in coronavirus relief funding from ARPA, specifically appropriated to address impacts from COVID-19 responses such as those special districts have experienced.

When special districts are excluded from relief, essential frontline workers and community residents are excluded from relief. We collectively support utilizing the transfer authority provided by Congress to assist special districts to ensure these local essential service providers continue to meet the needs of our recovering communities.

Sincerely,



Melissa Hurtado
Senator, District 14



Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Assemblymember, District 4



Brian Dahle
Senator, District 1



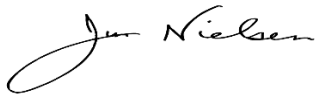
James Gallagher
Assemblymember, District 3



Bill Dodd
Senator, District 3



Frank Bigelow
Assemblymember, District 5



Jim Nielson
Senator, District 4



Kevin Kiley
Assemblymember, District 6



Susan Eggman
Senator, District 5



Ken Cooley
Assemblymember, District 8



Andreas Borgeas
Senator District 8



Jim Cooper
Assemblymember, District 9



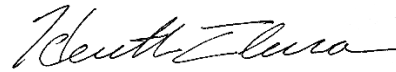
Monique Limon
Senator, District 9



Marc Levine
Assemblymember, District 10



Josh Becker
Senator, District 13



Heath Flora
Assemblymember, District 12



John Laird
Senator, District 17



Carlos Villapudua
Assemblymember, District 13



Rosilic Ochoa Bogh
Senator, District 23



Bill Quirk
Assemblymember, District 20



Bob Archuleta
Senator, District 32



Kevin Mullin
Assemblymember, District 22



Tom Umberg
Senator, District 34



Robert Rivas
Assemblymember, District 30



Brian Jones
Senator, District 38



Joaquin Arambula
Assemblymember, District 31



Jim Patterson
Assemblymember, District 23



Vince Fong
Assemblymember District 34



Devon Mathis
Assemblymember, District 26



Jordan Cunningham
Assemblymember, District 35



Tom Lackey
Assemblymember, District 36



Evan Low
Assemblymember, District 28



Steve Bennet
Assemblymember, District 37



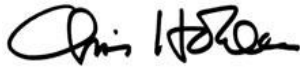
Mark Stone
Assemblymember, District 29



Suzette Valladares
Assemblymember, District 38



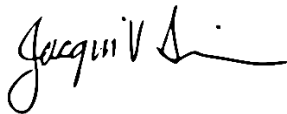
Steven Choi
Assemblymember District 68



Chris Holden
Assemblymember, District 41



Janet Nguyen
Assemblymember, District 72



Jacqui Irwin
Assemblymember, District 44



Laurie Davies
Assemblymember, District 73



Eloise Gomez-Reyes
Assemblymember, District 47



Eduardo Garcia
Assemblymember, District 56



Freddie Rodriguez
Assemblymember, District 52



Patricia Bates
Senator, District



Kelly Seyarto
Assembly District 67



Sharon Quirk-Silva
Assemblymember, District 65