



June 11, 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 support the Legislature’s request of \$100 million one-time General Fund relief funding for special districts who can demonstrate financial need due to the COVID-19 pandemic as proposed in the Legislative Version of the 2021-22 State Budget passed by both Budget Committees last week.

California's independent special districts have received no direct access to COVID-19 relief funding, unlike other government entities, including the state, schools, cities and counties. Yet they have played an integral role in the state’s local COVID-19 response and have experienced substantial impacts in both expenditures and revenue loss. This must be remedied – ultimately, when special districts are excluded from relief, frontline workers and community residents are excluded from relief.

As of February 5, 2021, forty-two percent of special districts reported reducing essential services, and thirty-three percent reported workforce reductions due to COVID-19 response impacts. These impacts will only increase without access to funding, negatively impacting our shared constituency. Over half of special districts report they provide services within disadvantaged and/or severely disadvantaged communities, these impacts are only compounded for residents already least able to absorb reductions to quality of life and essential services.

Special districts provide vital services to California’s communities that are not provided by any other municipality in the same service area and maintain a large portion of the state’s critical infrastructure, including fire protection and emergency response, healthcare, water and wastewater, electricity, ports, transportation, resource and agricultural conservation, parks,

libraries, cemeteries, air quality management, and more. This funding will benefit the residents we jointly serve by helping to ensure the special districts that responded to the needs of our communities during the pandemic are provided the support necessary to meet the next challenges we know are ahead so that they may continue to provide consistent and reliable local services.

We collectively support extending funding to assist independent special districts impacted by pandemic response in the final 2021-22 Budget Act and respectfully urge the Administration to support the \$100 million proposed one-time relief funding for this purpose.

Sincerely,



Melissa Hurtado
Senator, District 14



Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Assemblymember, District 4



Brian Dahle
Senator, District 1



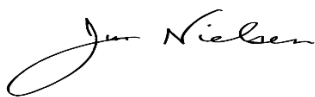
Monique Limon
Senator, District 9



Bill Dodd
Senator, District 3



Josh Becker
Senator, District 13



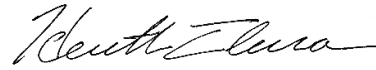
Jim Nielson
Senator, District 4



John Laird
Senator, District 17



Kevin Kiley
Assemblymember, District 6



Heath Flora
Assemblymember, District 12



Ken Cooley
Assemblymember, District 8



Carlos Villapudua
Assemblymember, District 13



Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
Senator, District 23



Bill Quirk
Assemblymember, District 20



Bob Archuleta
Senator, District 32



Kevin Mullin
Assemblymember, District 22



Jim Cooper
Assemblymember, District 9



Tom Umberg
Senator, District 34



Marc Levine
Assemblymember, District 10



Brian Jones
Senator, District 38



Jim Patterson
Assemblymember, District 23



Tom Lackey
Assemblymember, District 36



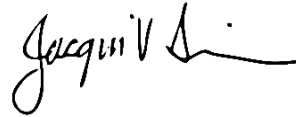
Devon Mathis
Assemblymember, District 26



Suzette Valladares
Assemblymember, District 38



Evan Low
Assemblymember, District 28



Jacqui Irwin
Assemblymember, District 44



Mark Stone
Assemblymember, District 29



Eloise Gomez-Reyes
Assemblymember, District 47



Robert Rivas
Assemblymember, District 30



Patricia Bates
Senator, District 36



Vince Fong
Assemblymember District 34



Sharon Quirk-Silva
Assemblymember, District 65



Jordan Cunningham
Assemblymember, District 35



Laurie Davies
Assemblymember, District 73

Freddie Rodriguez
Assemblymember, District 52

Shannon Grove
Senator, District 16

Kelly Seyarto
Assembly District 67

Anna Caballero
Senator, District 12

Steven Choi
Assemblymember District 68

Cristina Garcia
Assemblymember, District 58

Andreas Borgeas
Senator, District 8

Janet Nguyen
Assemblymember, District 72