



May 13, 2020

URGENT ACTION NEEDED – PROTECT LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY, FUND COUNTIES AND CITIES NOW

Orange County's Board of Supervisors, Mayors of 33 Cities Urge Congress, White House to Provide Immediate, Direct Funding

To the President of the United States, Members of the United States Senate, and the United States House of Representatives:

As the duly elected officials of the fifth-most populous County in the United States representing more than 3.3 million people, we urge Congress to provide dedicated and flexible funding for all local governments in the next federal Economic Stabilization and Relief Package. State and local governments are on the front lines of the pandemic providing critical health and human services and are in desperate need of federal assistance to address lost revenue as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Failure to act will lead to a reduction of critical services that our constituents increasingly depend on. At a time when our constituents are suffering economic losses due to unemployment and other business closures, cuts to municipal services will impact their quality of life: fewer parks, more potholes, longer wait times for government permits, inspections, and other services. Without federal assistance, we will not be able to sustain these services or the critical health and public safety functions for which we are responsible.

We ask that the following provisions be included in the next relief package:

- Two separate and equally sized funds for direct payments to counties and cities as follows:
 - A County fund to be awarded directly to counties based on population, with all counties receiving an award.
 - A Municipality fund to be awarded to cities of all sizes using a fair distribution formula.
- Greater flexibility to allow state and local aid in the CARES Act and subsequent bills to cover more uses, including but not limited to the ability to make up for lost revenue.
- Reasonable guardrails to ensure accountability.
- A Federal Ombudsman to provide real-time guidance to counties and cities.

While our efforts have been successful in “flattening the curve” to reduce the number of positive cases and deaths in our County, we are facing unprecedented demands on public health and critical safety net services at the same time that our ability to fund them is rapidly deteriorating. We are exhausting reserves to protect our residents and we must make budget decisions in the next 45 days that will impact the services we provide.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Michelle Steel, Chairwoman
Third District Supervisor Don Wagner
Fifth District Supervisor Lisa Bartlett

Supervisor Andrew Do, Vice Chair
Fourth District Supervisor Doug Chaffee

Aliso Viejo Mayor Mike Munzing

Anaheim Mayor Harry Sidhu

Brea Mayor Marty Simonoff

Buena Park Mayor Fred Smith

Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley

Cypress Mayor Rob Johnson

Dana Point Mayor Richard Viczorek

Fountain Valley Mayor Cheryl Brothers

Fullerton Mayor Jennifer Fitzgerald

Garden Grove Mayor Steven R. Jones

Huntington Beach Mayor Lyn Semeta

Irvine Mayor Christina L. Shea

La Habra Mayor Tom Beamish

La Palma Mayor Peter L. Kim

Laguna Beach Mayor Bob Whalen

Laguna Hills Mayor Janine Heft

Laguna Niguel Mayor Laurie Davies

Laguna Woods Mayor Noel Hatch

Lake Forest Mayor Pro Tem Mike James

Los Alamitos Mayor Richard D. Murphy

Mission Viejo Mayor Brian Goodell

Newport Beach Mayor Will O'Neill

Orange Mayor Mark A. Murphy

Placentia Mayor Ward Smith

Rancho Santa Margarita Mayor Bradley J. McGirr

San Juan Capistrano Mayor Troy A. Bourne

Santa Ana Mayor Miguel Pulido

Seal Beach Mayor Schelly Sustarsic

Stanton Mayor David J. Shawver

Tustin Mayor Dr. Allan Bernstein

Villa Park Mayor Robert Pitts

Westminster Mayor Tri Ta

Yorba Linda Mayor Dr. Beth Haney