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April 28, 2020

The Honorable Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Senator Kamala Harris
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Congressman Tom McClintock
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Congressman Doug LaMalfa
322 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: COVID-19 Funding for Counties

Dear Senators Feinstein and Harris and Congressmen McClintock and LaMalfa:

On behalf of Placer County, I thank you for your leadership during this critical time and your efforts to address the significant health, safety and economic impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Congress negotiates a potential fourth COVID-19 response package, we urge you to provide direct and flexible funding to county governments who are at ground-zero of this unprecedented public health and economic crisis.

In Placer County we operate a local public health department, and are responsible for emergency operations centers, human services, jail management, 911 services, veterans' services and the "last of the first responders" with coroners and medical examiners, among many other essential county functions. Given our role at the front lines of this crisis, we strongly urge you to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.

While the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136) provided \$150 billion for unanticipated expenditures for states and local governments, counties such as Placer County, with populations below 500,000 are not eligible for direct funding and are instead at the mercy of the state—which is dealing with their own fiscal pressures.

Given the unique county role of counties in our nation's public health and overall community response to this pandemic, we again respectfully urge you to support efforts to allocate resources directly to counties. We further urge you not to use the outdated CDBG formula for the allocation of funds to local governments and instead base funding on an equitable per capita basis.

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Again, thank you for your leadership during these unprecedented times. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with your team and are committed to a solution that helps our County mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times. Please contact Joel Joyce, Senior Management Analyst at jjoyce@placer.ca.gov to correspond further.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Gore, Chair (District 1)
Placer County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Placer County Board of Supervisors
CSAC
Holland and Knight