



East Contra Costa Fire Protection District

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

June 1, 2020

The Honorable Toni Atkins
President pro Tempore, California State Senate
California State Capitol, room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker, California State Assembly
California State Capitol, room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Special District COVID-19 Fiscal Impacts and Request for Access to Fiscal Assistance

Dear Senator Atkins and Assembly Member Rendon,

On behalf of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, I thank you for your leadership and consideration of the budgetary impacts resulting from COVID-19 state and local governments collectively face. ECCFPD provides essential fire service to the communities of Brentwood, Oakley, Discovery Bay, Bethel Island, Byron, Marsh Creek, and the Morgan Terriorty.

I respectfully request your support of special districts being included in any economic relief determinations for local government. Special districts, like our partners at cities and counties, are delivering essential services to our communities. However, unlike cities and counties, special districts have not been included in federal stimulus funding or given access to financial tools.

Special districts seek the partnership of state and federal leaders to be granted access to fiscal assistance and financial tools to help rebound from the steep economic impacts of COVID-19 response, so that we may continue to stand ready against the next disaster and fulfill our mission to provide the resilient, consistent vital local services California communities rely upon.

Across California, independent special districts like mine are on the front lines of COVID-19 response ensuring the delivery of critical local services that impact the quality of life in their community such as fire districts as well as health care delivery, first response, mosquito abatement and vector control, recreation and parks, and cultural and community centers and operating vital infrastructure such as roads, water, waste management, harbors and ports, airports, transit services, levees, and electricity, among others.

And, across California, districts like mine are experiencing budgetary impacts from the COVID-19 health crisis. Statewide, by June 2021 76% of special districts throughout the state – which represents 1500 local governments – will experience significant budget challenges or cashflow issues. Within the next six months, 42% of special districts statewide will draw down reserves to mitigate budget impacts with 42% still needing to cut or decrease staff and 35% needing to cut service levels to their communities. The estimated overall fiscal impact of COVID-19 to special districts as of May 2020 is approximately \$250 million, with \$167million in direct revenue lost and \$80 million in additional unbudgeted expenditures for emergency management.

As the State addresses the unmet needs and service gaps we will be facing in communities across California, it is imperative State leaders consider the essential role of special districts and the impacts COVID-19 has had on our ability to sustain and maintain services.

If you have questions or would like to further discuss any of the above, I welcome the opportunity to assist your efforts in any way possible.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:



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Brian Helmick
Fire Chief
East Contra Costa Fire Protection District

CC: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California
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