



**Ventura County Special
Districts Association**

January 15, 2021

County of Ventura
County Executive Office

Attn: Michael Powers, County Executive Officer
Mike Pettit, Assistant County Executive Officer
Scott Powers, Senior Deputy County Executive Officer
Jeff Pratt, Public Works Agency Director

800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Mr. Powers, Mr. Pettit, Mr. Powers and Mr. Pratt:

On behalf of the Ventura County Special Districts Association (VCSDA), thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to serving the coronavirus pandemic public health and related needs of our residents. As a partner with Ventura County and the ten cities within the County, our special districts have and continue to be dedicated to providing related response and services to our common residents within the County.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, like many, special districts have also faced challenges of providing for job/payroll protection, high unemployment costs, employee safety and personal protective equipment, enhanced custodial services, other materials and equipment and revenue loss. Additionally, special districts have and continue to provide such things as enhanced education and enforcement, outdoor recreation, childcare, meal and nutrition service, support and consideration for local businesses and non-profits that use our services and provide goods delivery, among others. In many cases, we are providing additional services and in other cases the cost of providing our existing services has proved to be more expensive as we comply with coronavirus safety requirements and operating guidelines.

However, unlike many other sectors within the County, including local governments, businesses, non-profits and others, special districts have not received financial support to date to meet the increased needs and demands of the response. While hopeful that we could sustain our services and provide for the increased financial impact throughout the duration of the pandemic, the prolonged nature of the challenge has and continues to increasingly impede our ability to sustain our response and service levels.

For these reasons, we would like to request that special districts be given consideration for appropriate federal and state funds that may be received by the County for such purposes for any past or future costs incurred as a result of our role in providing pandemic related response and services in the County. Some

other counties within California have taken similar steps to provide federal and state coronavirus funds to assist local special districts. The request was considered and unanimously approved by the VCSDA Board of Directors at a special meeting on January 12, 2021 and all of the special districts listed on the enclosed attachment are aware of the effort.

To support the request and to provide some information on the nature and scope of our services, we coordinated and collected pandemic related cost information from 28 independent special districts in the County. A summary of the results is provided in the attached document. Of the 28 special districts, 13 reported a financial impact, 9 reported having no or nominal impacts, and a response from 6 others is pending. Of the 13 that reported a financial impact, the total estimated impact for the 10-month period between March 2020 and December 2020 is \$3,934,130. Deducting for estimated Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement claims that some of us have submitted, our total collective estimated cost for the past 10 months has been \$3,484,130. We anticipate that these costs will continue at current levels or higher levels throughout the phased process of re-establishing normal operations.

Should you determine that support for special districts for past or future costs is warranted with any current federal or state funds that are or become available, we recommend that a similar request/reimbursement method that was developed for the cities within the county also be used for the special districts. If funding becomes available, we would expect that each of the special districts that have impacts would be responsible for applying for such funds. To the extent needed, we would be happy to help further develop a reimbursement process or assist in gathering any necessary information that would be needed.

We understand the challenge of prioritizing any available federal or state funds and directing those funds to the highest priority needs within the County. As you develop your recommendations, we appreciate your consideration so that we can continue to sustain our service levels to carry out the role that we have in responding to the pandemic and providing for our communities.

Sincerely,

Ventura County Special Districts Association Coronavirus Response Staff Committee

Kara Ralston
Chief Executive Officer
Camarillo Health Care District

Jim Friedl
General Manager
Conejo Recreation and Park District

Mary Otten
General Manager
Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District

Dan Paranick
District Manager
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District

Brian Pendleton
General Manager
Ventura Port District

cc: Ventura County Special Districts Association Member Agencies

Ventura County Special Districts Association
Summary of Estimated Coronavirus Financial Impacts by District
March 2020 through December 2020

<u>Ventura County Special District</u>	<u>Estimated Financial Impact</u> ^{1,2}
Bardsdale Cemetery District	No/Nominal
Bell Canyon Community Services District	No/Nominal
Blanchard/Santa Paula Public Library District	\$ 5,000
Calleguas Municipal Water District	\$ 109,482
Camarillo Health Care District	\$ 65,000
Camrosa Water District	\$ 16,000
Casitas Municipal Water District	\$ 327,608
Channel Islands Beach Community Service District	Pending
Conejo Recreation and Park District	\$ 1,200,000
El Rancho Simi Pioneer Cemetery District	No/Nominal
Fillmore-Piru Memorial District	Pending
Hidden Valley Municipal Water District	No/Nominal
Meiners Oaks Water District	No/Nominal
Ojai Valley Sanitary District	No/Nominal
Ojai Water Conservation District	No/Nominal
Oxnard Drainage District #1	No/Nominal
Oxnard Drainage District 2	No/Nominal
Oxnard Harbor District - Port of Hueneme	\$ 300,000
Pleasant Valley County Water District	Pending
Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District	\$ 200,000
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District	\$ 1,012,100
Saticoy Sanitary District	Pending
Triunfo Water and Sanitation District	Pending
United Water Conservation District	\$ 505,000
Ventura County Resources Conservation District	Pending
Ventura Port District	\$ 137,940
Ventura Regional Sanitation District	\$ 55,000
Ventura River Water District	\$ 1,000
Subtotal	\$ 3,934,130
Less Estimated FEMA Claims for Reimbursement³	\$ (450,000)
Total Estimated Cost/Need	\$ 3,484,130

1 - Type of costs included in Summary Estimate: Unemployment, Emergency Sick Leave, Custodial/Sanitation, Signage, Restrooms, Food Distribution, Education and Enforcement, Childcare, Personal Protective Equipment, Technology, Business/Non-Profit Relief.

2 - Does Not Include Revenue Reduction/Loss.

3 - Estimated Claims to FEMA submitted by Ventura County Special Districts through September 2020 - No reimbursement funds have been received from FEMA to date.