April 10, 2020

The Honorable Michelle Steel
Orange County Board of Supervisors
10 Civic Center Plaza
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: COVID-19 Response: Access to Coronavirus Relief Fund

Dear Chairwoman Steel:

As the Mayors of the cities of Orange County, we write to respectfully request that the County work to secure funding from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, approved as part of the CARES Act, and quickly distribute the funding to the cities in Orange County that have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the CARES Act that President Trump signed into law on March 27th, the Coronavirus Relief Fund was established to provide state and local government assistance for those local governments with a population that exceeds 500,000. While Orange County is the third largest county in California, there are no cities within the county that qualify for a direct allocation of federal funding, yet we are still expected to respond to the impacts from COVID-19 while maintaining an ongoing level of city services demanded by a densely populated, high-risk area.

Through the quick distribution of this vital funding, cities will be able to greatly expand the number of testing sites serving our communities, secure and distribute personal protective equipment, provide our law enforcement and first responders with appropriate equipment, provide increased services to our residents in need, and work with community based organizations to help ensure the public health and safety of all our residents. While we have already been engaging in many of these activities, access to the funds from the Coronavirus Relief Fund will enable us to greatly accelerate these efforts, reduce the number and severity of future COVID-19 cases, and begin the process of recovering from this devastating pandemic.

We respectfully request the County quickly provide our cities with resources from the Coronavirus Relief Fund that will be directly available to the County. Attached you will find a breakdown of the County’s direct allocation by Orange County city and population. We believe that this would be a fair method of distributing the funding to ensure that all Orange County residents are able to benefit from the funding made available through the CARES Act. It is critical that cities in the county receive this direct financial support to be able to sustain our workforce, our businesses, and our local economy. We look forward to working with the County to combat the effects of this pandemic.

Respectfully,

The Orange County Mayors

Mike Munzing
Mayor
City of Aliso Viejo

Harry Sidhu
Mayor
City of Anaheim
Laurie Davies  
Mayor  
City of Laguna Niguel

Noel Hatch  
Mayor  
City of Laguna Woods

Neeki Moatazedi  
Mayor  
City of Lake Forest

Richard D. Murphy  
Mayor  
City of Los Alamitos

Brian Goodell  
Mayor  
City of Mission Viejo

Will O'Neill  
Mayor  
City of Newport Beach

Mark A. Murphy  
Mayor  
City of Orange

Ward Smith  
Mayor  
City of Placentia

Bradley J. McGirr  
Mayor  
City of Rancho Santa Margarita

Dan Bane  
Mayor  
City of San Clemente

Troy Bourne  
Mayor  
City of San Juan Capistrano

Miguel A. Pulido  
Mayor  
City of Santa Ana

Schelly Sustarsic  
Mayor  
City of Seal Beach

David J. Shawver  
Mayor  
City of Stanton
Allan Bernstein  
Mayor  
City of Tustin  

Robbie Pitts  
Mayor  
City of Villa Park  

Tri Ta  
Mayor  
City of Westminster  

Beth Haney  
Mayor  
City of Yorba Linda  

cc:  Vice Chair Do  
Supervisor Bartlett  
Supervisor Chaffee  
Supervisor Wagner