June 2, 2020

The Honorable William Brough
California State Assembly, 73rd District
State Capitol, Room 3141
Sacramento, CA 95814
VIA Email:
assemblymember.brough@assembly.ca.gov

The Honorable Patricia C. Bates
California State Senate, 36th District
State Capitol, Room 3048
Sacramento, CA 95814
VIA Email: senator.bates@senate.ca.gov

Dear Assembly Member Brough and Senator Bates:

On behalf of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita, thank you for your efforts to protect and support Californians during the COVID-19 public health crisis. Cities have also been coordinating across jurisdictional lines and enacting emergency measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus. We have incurred monumental unplanned expenses while protecting public health and safety. These actions have almost certainly saved lives, but have come at a cost to our economy.

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita appreciates the May Revision allocation of $450 million of the state’s CARES Act funding to cover COVID-19-related costs by cities. However, under the current formula, our City will only receive $601,460. This is not nearly enough to provide adequate levels of personal protective equipment to front line workers, to disinfect and sanitize public facilities, or to take other needed public health actions to begin the process of reopening.

We are calling on the Legislature and the Governor to increase the State’s CARES Act funding allocation to cities to $500 million. CARES Act funding will help Rancho Santa Margarita recover from this pandemic faster, and reopen our communities without furthering city revenue shortfalls and threatening core city services.

Because CARES Act funding can only be used for COVID-19-related expenses, we will still need direct State and Federal funding to address the devastating impact stay-at-home orders have had on our budget and local economy.

Thank you again for your leadership and partnership during these uncertain times.

Respectfully,

Bradley J. McGirr
Mayor
Cc: Governor Gavin Newsom: ExternalAffairs@gov.ca.gov
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