



Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco, Fresno, Sacramento,  
Long Beach, Oakland, Bakersfield, Anaheim, Santa Ana, Riverside, Stockton

May 12, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol Building, 1st Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

We applaud your leadership during this intensely challenging time. In addition to the many life-or-death decisions made regarding health matters, you and your team are tackling a historic budget deficit, wrought by the economic fallout from this pandemic.

As we all know too well, the weeks ahead require painful cuts and gut-wrenching trade-offs. We seek to continue to work collaboratively with you and your team as you navigate these perilous waters to make difficult decisions in this moment of budgetary scarcity. In a spirit of collaboration, we offer our top priorities for this year's budget.

First, we seek to ensure that all cities over 300,000 in population obtain a full and fair allocation of federal CARES Act funding, to compensate for the unprecedented emergency efforts undertaken to address the pandemic in our communities. As we're learning from FEMA, many of those efforts—such as provision of millions of meals daily for our needy families struggling without a paycheck—may go unreimbursed. Although six of our cities—all having more than 500,000 residents—have received a direct allocation provided by the legislation, seven of California's largest 13 cities remain left behind. We seek that the State of California provide a reasonable distribution of its Federal allocation Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars to Long Beach, Oakland, Bakersfield, Anaheim, Santa Ana, Riverside, and Stockton for eligible pandemic-related expenditures.

Second, consistent with your longstanding commitment to reduce homelessness, we seek to sustain previous direct allocations of funding to cities and counties that enable a flexible and nimble response to our homelessness crisis. We are grateful for your leadership with local communities through Project Roomkey to move thousands of homeless residents into vacant hotels and motels. We now seek resources to enable our cities to purchase many of those leased hotels and motels, to enable us to leverage a moment of declining real estate values to acquire assets that can provide longer-term solutions to homelessness challenges.

Finally, we urge that the State of California do no harm. State and cities both face enormous budgetary challenges due to COVID-19, and there is a lengthy history of State predatory incursion in local budgets—such as the ERAF shift of property tax dollars to the State treasury in 1992, or the elimination of redevelopment agencies in 2011—that exacerbated budgetary crises in our cities during severe downturns. In this moment of crisis, we need a State that will be an ally, not an albatross.

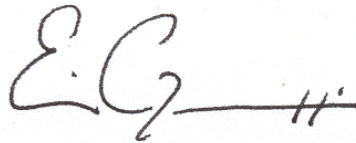
Thank you for your continued consideration of our priorities. We look forward to working with you and your team in the coming weeks and months to steer California through this pandemic to brighter days ahead.

Sincerely,

Big City Mayors Coalition



**Sam Liccardo**  
Mayor  
City of San José



**Eric Garcetti**  
Mayor  
City of Los Angeles



**Kevin Faulconer**  
Mayor  
City of San Diego



**London Breed**  
Mayor  
City of San Francisco



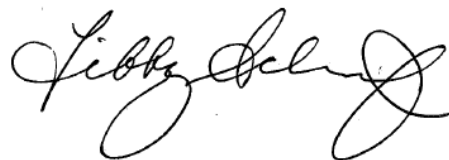
**Lee Brand**  
Mayor  
City of Fresno



**Darrell Steinberg**  
Mayor  
City of Sacramento



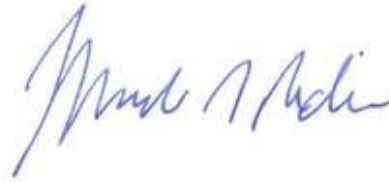
**Robert Garcia**  
Mayor  
City of Long Beach



**Libby Schaaf**  
Mayor  
City of Oakland



**Karen Goh**  
Mayor  
City of Bakersfield



**Harry Sidhu**  
Mayor  
City of Anaheim



**Miguel Pulido**  
Mayor  
City of Santa Ana



**Rusty Bailey**  
Mayor  
City of Riverside



**Michael Tubbs**  
Mayor  
City of Stockton