



East Contra Costa Fire Protection District

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

May 27, 2021

The Honorable Sue Higgins
Mayor, City of Oakley
3231 Main Street
Oakley, CA 94561

RE: Contra Costa Special Districts Request County Support for COVID-19 Relief

Dear Mayor Higgins,

The water, wastewater, fire protection, resource conservation, park, and other special districts serving our mutual constituents in Contra Costa County have been excluded from direct access to COVID-19 relief funding. East Contra Costa Fire Protection District formally requests the Oakley City Council join a [growing coalition](#) of over 700 organizations and local leaders to request that funds coming to the State of California from the recently signed federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) be made available to California's special districts providing our communities with vital services.

To date, over 300 statewide associations, local public agencies, and local business and nonprofit organizations have signed on to our coalition. Additionally, [46 State Legislators have signed a letter](#) to Governor Gavin Newsom supporting our request, as have [Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla](#) along with [15 members of the California Congressional Delegation](#).

California's special districts now face a projected \$2.4 billion unmet fiscal need due to COVID-19. Without access to the relief funds, this impact will translate into lost jobs, reduced services, and compounding economic consequences to our local economy.

The ARP will provide the State of California with \$27.1 billion and will send another \$15.9 billion to cities and counties, with Contra Costa set to receive \$224,058,903. The ARP also provided states, cities, and counties with explicit authority to share a portion of these funds with special districts, which the States of Colorado and Oregon have done with ten percent of their COVID-19 relief funding.

With California enjoying a \$75 billion surplus, we believe the state is the appropriate body to exercise its transfer authority and use these additional federal relief dollars to assist the special districts serving our region. But if we want them to act, they need to hear from all of us.

Please support our special districts, our frontline workers, and the communities we serve by joining our coalition through the online form at www.csga.net/take-action/covid.

Thank you for your attention; I hope we can count on your help.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:

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Brian Helmick
Fire Chief
East Contra Costa Fire Protection District

cc: Oakley City Council