



**COSUMNES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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July 9, 2020

The Honorable Dr. Ami Bera
United States House of Representatives
1727 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kamala Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Bera, Senator Feinstein and Senator Harris,

The Cosumnes Community Services District respectfully urges you and your colleagues to consider including the needs of independent special districts in the impending fourth COVID-19 pandemic relief bill.

As a provider of fire suppression, emergency medical and parks and recreation services to over 205,000 residents in the Cities of Elk Grove, Galt and south Sacramento County, access to resources to confront COVID-19, as well as relief to recover, is essential to continuing our operations and best serving our – and your – constituents.

COVID-19 has brought significant challenges to our community and our district.

As a provider of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, we have continued to serve the community and continue to incur additional costs for PPE and other essential equipment.

As a provider of Parks and Recreation services, we closed all of our community sites, all recreation activities and programs, events and rentals were suspended or cancelled; all picnic areas, playgrounds and sports courts were closed as well.

For every month that these resources are closed, and events suspended the District suffers a revenue loss of \$800,000, while continuing to have outgoing cashflow for fixed cost items. When the COVID-19 situation begins to subside, this revenue loss (in large part due to the seasonality of revenue generating programs) will significantly impact the District throughout the next fiscal year of recovery.

As the fourth federal COVID-19 relief bill is developed, I urge you and your colleagues to keep in mind these very serious issues. Independent special districts and the communities and regions that rely on our services across the nation will be further harmed should the pandemic continue,

and local governments not be considered for inclusion in resources already provided to other entities. On behalf of our district and our mutual constituents, we request you:

- **Expand the Coronavirus Relief Fund’s eligibility for “local forms of government”** to receive a portion of the funds and appropriate \$100 billion specifically for local governments to utilize and continue services across the country.
- **Include local governments in the COVID-19 payroll tax credit.** All public agencies are required to provide paid COVID-19 sick and family leave; however special districts and other public agencies are excluded from the credit, putting us at a disadvantage.
- **Restore advance refunding of tax-exempt bonds, as outlined in H.R. 2772.** Doing so would allow flexibility for states and local governments to access billions of dollars to reallocate and spend on other projects, which, in turn, strengthens local infrastructure networks.
- **Increase access to capital for small borrowers, as is included in H.R. 3967.** This would increase the bank-qualified borrowing limit from \$10 million to \$30 million and allow it to apply at the borrower level. Taking this measure would grant small issuers – both government and non-profit, who may be hardest hit during the downturn, access to capital for immediate project needs.

We thank you for your leadership in securing significant relief for our nation in the previous three COVID-19 relief bills: health care districts with medical centers have new access to vital equipment; families will receive stimulus rebates to soften financial hardships and pay utility bills; and 457 retirement account holders have temporary flexibility for higher fund disbursements to help cover COVID-19 expenses. **But without the aforementioned fixes, special districts like ours, and thousands of others serving millions of Americans, will struggle to maintain the critical local infrastructure and continue the essential community services that our nation’s businesses and families depend upon.**

Thank you for your consideration,



Joshua Green,
General Manager
Cosumnes Community Services District

CC:

Steven Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
[via LegAffairs@do.treas.gov]

California Special Districts Association
[via advocacy@csga.net]