



CITY OF OCEANSIDE

April 29, 2020

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
VIA E-mail: ExternalAffairs@gov.ca.gov

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the City of Oceanside, we thank you for your leadership and efforts to protect and support Californians during this unprecedented public health crisis. Cities remain on the front line helping residents stay safe, delivering emergency services, and supporting local businesses. However, as emergency costs continue to grow, city revenues to fund local services are plummeting. COVID-19 is having devastating impacts on city budgets.

Based on the League of California Cities analysis, California cities are projecting a nearly **\$7 billion general revenue shortfall** over the next two fiscal years. This shortfall will grow by billions of dollars if stay-at-home orders to protect public health extend into the summer months and beyond.

The City of Oceanside projects that these shortfalls will impact our core city services, including police, fire service, development services, and housing. A majority of the cities surveyed anticipate lay-offs or furloughs, which will further impact core city services for residents, as well as the employees.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the City of Oceanside has stepped up to protect and serve our community. Oceanside was the first in our region to develop a plan in March to support the most vulnerable residents and businesses at the same time, through a meal delivery plan much like the one the State announced recently for seniors. Food distributions have been lined up, and we banned evictions in March. Oceanside began a small business gap loan program and is banned commercial evictions, as well as offered a Utility Bill Relief Program to our business community. Additionally, the Oceanside Public Library is delivering materials to residents' doorsteps. The necessary measures our city has taken are costly. In order to continue to be a full partner with the state in saving lives, protecting our communities, and ultimately recovering from this crisis, **we need your help.**

The City of Oceanside is calling on you to immediately support the following actions:

- Establish at least a \$7 billion city revenue stabilization fund for direct aid to all cities to address the general revenue shortfall over the next two fiscal years;
- Allocate a share of the State's \$8.4 billion CARES Act funding for cities with populations under 500,000 to support COVID-19 expenses; and
- Create a COVID-19 financing vehicle that all cities can access to support immediate cash flow needs.

Oceanside appreciates your consideration of our requests and look forward to further discussing in the coming days how together we can continue to best protect Californians and reopen our economy.

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

Sincerely,



Peter Weiss
MAYOR

Cc: Oceanside City Council
Senator Pat Bates
Assembly Member Tasha Boerner Horvath
Catherine Hill, League Regional Public Affairs Manager
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org