



*"Citrus Capital of the World"*

# City of Santa Paula

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March 16, 2021

Dr. Robert Levin  
Ventura County Chief Medical Officer  
2240 E. Gonzales Road  
Oxnard, California 93036

Dear Dr. Levin:

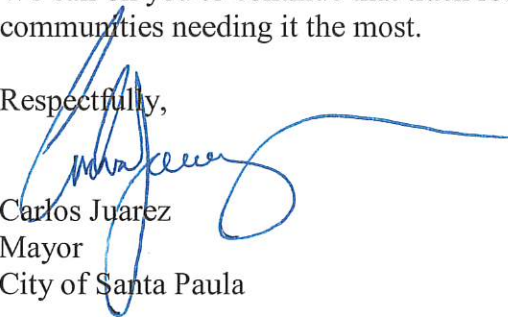
As you know, late last month our State took a measured step forward to allocate vaccines to communities hardest hit by COVID-19. It was a bold move to reach those areas with the highest hospitalization, infection and death rates and to shift up to 40% of new vaccines to those locations. Using the "Healthy Places Index" (HPI), the State has committed to double up the vaccination allotments to the lowest 25 percent of communities on the Index, by zip code.

Within Ventura County, only two zip codes qualify as being in the bottom quartile; one portion of Oxnard and the City of Santa Paula. Unfortunately, however, Santa Paula turns out not to be within the lowest 400 zip codes on a statewide basis according to the California Department of Public Health and will therefore not receive the added allocation, despite having some of the highest case rates and deaths in the entire County and more than double the Countywide average in both categories. Additionally, our HPI in the County ranks us as the 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> worst percentiles in the County.

If the goal of fighting this pandemic is to slow down the spread of COVID-19, reduce hospitalizations and restore local economies, where better to focus attention than the communities that need it the most. The statistics are real and compelling and should be used by the County to inform and influence your distribution strategy in order to positively impact the people most vulnerable and needing the greatest amount of help. In addition, yesterday, the County opened a State of California MyTurn vaccine location in town to assist with vaccine distribution for the County and yet there are no indications on when our own residents might be able to seek out a vaccination at this site.

We are asking the County to demonstrate that at least 40 percent of vaccine doses are administered to the lowest income residents and most highly impacted communities in our County as directed by the Governor through equitable vaccine administration. Ventura County has been a true leader in public health and has a solid track record of social equity and outreach. We call on you to continue that track record and shift upcoming vaccinations to those communities needing it the most.

Respectfully,



Carlos Juarez  
Mayor  
City of Santa Paula

cc: Supervisor Kelly Long  
Mike Powers, County CAO  
Rigoberto Vargas, Ventura County Public Health Director  
Santa Paula City Council