



"Citrus Capital of the World"

City of Santa Paula

970 Ventura Street • Santa Paula, California • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 569 • 93061 • Phone: (805) 525-4478 • Fax: (805) 525-6278

June 7, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phillip Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #4
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Wendy Carrillo
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #4
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairs Skinner, Ting, Caballero, and Carrillo:

The City of Santa Paula respectfully requests a budget commitment to cities of at least \$10 billion in the 2021-2022 State Budget to help cities recover from the pandemic, bolster investment towards meaningful solutions to homelessness, improve housing affordability, and advance critical infrastructure.

The fiscal consequences of the pandemic have had real world impacts on the city services Californians depend on daily. Nine out of 10 cities are currently experiencing a revenue shortfall due to the pandemic, 7 out of 10 cities anticipate that this shortfall will continue into next year, and 3 out of 4 cities will not, or are unsure if they can, balance their next budget without cutting services and staff.

While the local relief included in the American Rescue Plan will help cities continue to fight the pandemic and begin to rebuild their local economies, fiscal gaps still persist for many cities, whose revenue losses and unplanned expenditures far exceed the anticipated relief.

Additionally, the American Rescue Plan does not specifically address major infrastructure costs to vital areas of our community such as road repairs, sidewalk repairs, ADA pedestrian improvements and critical safety infrastructure.

The state budget surplus presents a historic opportunity to invest in cities, to ensure an equitable and comprehensive recovery, and address generational crises that were exacerbated by the pandemic. We urge the State and Legislature to appropriate at least \$10 billion to cities, specifically:

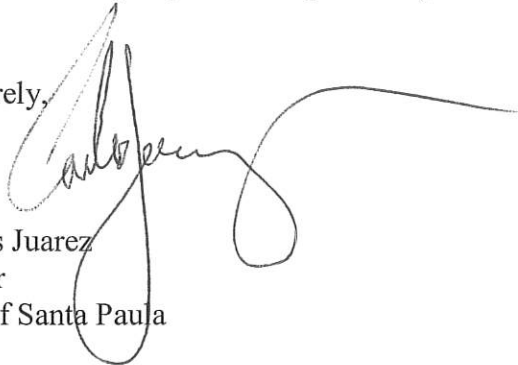
- **\$2 BILLION IN DIRECT AND FLEXIBLE STATE AID.** To address local budget gaps left by the American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery

Fund and to prevent sustained cuts to good government jobs and jumpstart core services including the easing of municipal hiring freezes.

- **\$5 BILLION FOR EVIDENCE-BASED HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS.** To support cities in their efforts towards ending homelessness and increasing the construction of housing that is affordable to all Californians. With prevailing wage and construction cost increases the costs of construction have skyrocketed requiring additional funding to support our local homeless projects.
- **AT LEAST \$3 BILLION FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE.** To support expansion and related infrastructure upgrades in unserved and underserved communities to help cities catalyze projects statewide.
- **\$225 MILLION TO HELP FUND THE MANDATES TO DIVERT ORGANIC WASTE FROM LANDFILLS.** To enable cities and the State stay on course to meet our ambitious goals to reduce landfill disposal.

All levels of government have worked together to combat this pandemic. As our work together shifts to recovery for all, let us continue that strong partnership by ensuring that no community is left behind. Thank you for considering our request for assistance to protect local government operations and jobs, and to help the City of Santa Paula emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlos Juarez', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Carlos Juarez
Mayor
City of Santa Paula

Cc: City Council
City Manager
The Honorable California Governor Newsom
The Honorable Senate pro Tempore Toni Atkins
The Honorable Senator Monique Limón
The Honorable Assemblymember Steve Bennett
David Mullinax, League of California Cities Regional Public Affairs Manager (via email: dmullinax@cacities.org)
League of California Cities (via email: cityletters@cacities.org)