



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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HILDA L. SOLIS

CHAIR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT



February 26, 2021

Mr. Bob Fenton
Senior Official Performing the Duties of FEMA Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
500 C St SW
Washington, DC

Director Mark Ghilarducci
California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)
4671 Liberty Avenue
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

Dear Senior Official Fenton and Director Ghilarducci:

I would like to begin by commending Governor Newsom and President Biden for their courageous leadership and unwavering support of Los Angeles County, with specific gratitude for the FEMA-Cal OES Vaccination Site at Cal-State Los Angeles and accompanying mobile vaccination units. As our case rates decrease, we are refocusing our efforts on vaccinating our most at-risk communities, which I know is a priority of your administrations as well.

It is with these shared goals, and a great concern for our vulnerable communities, that I write this letter. The communities of Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) are home to nearly half a million residents, 90% of whom are Latinx, 43% are first-generation immigrants, and nearly 30% non-citizen immigrants. They have been particularly devastated by COVID-19, with nearly 20% testing positive for COVID-19 since the pandemic began. Unfortunately, their vaccination rate is less than 10% of those eligible, while neighboring communities have reached vaccination rates of nearly 30%.

SELA has been historically underserved and forgotten, a pattern we cannot keep repeating. Although some surrounding communities have multiple vaccination options, SELA has only a few small community sites with minimal vaccine doses available. They are in desperate need of additional reliable vaccination options, and a dedicated mobile clinic would have a significant impact on increasing vaccination rates in this heavily impacted yet underserved area. We are already beginning

to see the success of mobile vaccination clinics in other areas of our County, including the two established by FEMA at the Cal State University Los Angeles vaccination site. This success, which we saw in the city of Bell with the deployment of the mobile clinic, can be duplicated in SELA to serve the multiple communities in this hard-hit region.

We have endured a long, hard winter in Los Angeles County, now having lost over 20,000 to COVID-19 Countywide, but the support from FEMA and Cal OES has been unwavering, bringing hope to communities that have lost so much. **I am now writing to request an additional mobile vaccination unit dedicated to serving the Southeast Los Angeles.** Although I realize this is not a permanent solution, it will go a long way toward increased vaccine access for these often-forgotten communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and continued partnership as we beat this pandemic. Please contact Elise Weinberg of my staff at eweinberg@bos.lacounty.gov or 213-974-4111 if additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,



HILDA L. SOLIS

Supervisor, First District
Chair, Board of Supervisors