

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0058
(916) 319-2058
FAX 916-319-2158

DISTRICT OFFICE
8255 FIRESTONE BLVD, SUITE 203
DOWNEY, CA 90241
(562) 861-5803
FAX (562) 861-5158



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CHAIR, BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE # 5
ON PUBLIC SAFETY

March 4, 2021

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Peter T. Gaynor
FEMA Administrator
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Governor Newsom and Administrator Gaynor,

I write to you today as the representative of the 58th Assembly Districts in California. I represent 9 cities that encompass much of Southeast Los Angeles County (SELA). The region has been one of the hardest hit in the state by COVID. We are essential employees who do not have the opportunity to shelter-in-place or to work from home. We are a proud Latino and immigrant community.

Because we have been the hardest hit by COVID, I hoped our community would be one of the first to receive PPE for our essential workers. That was not the case. The same can be said of testing and now vaccines. I fought long and hard to get testing sites in SELA and remain committed to doing the same for vaccines.

Last week, LA County released the distribution of vaccines within the county and we were shocked, but not surprised, to see that SELA is at the back of line, again. For example, the City of Rolling Hills Estates, with a median income of \$166,000 and a COVID case rate of 1 in 34 and deaths 1 in 1,014, received vaccines for 1 in 4 people in the city. In contrast, the City of Bell Gardens, with a median income of \$42,000 and a COVID case rate of 1 in 5 people and a death rate of 1 in 489, has only vaccinated 1 in every 19 people.

COVID has magnified and exacerbated the systemic inequities that precede us all, for low income black and brown communities like mine. I am very appreciate that equity is top of mind for us all, with that in mind, my office, in conjunction with our local cities and organizations are ready to get to work with you, in partnership in order to meet our shared equity goals. That's why I write to you today.

Specifically, I request a mobile site for vaccinations dedicated to SELA and that we work within the infrastructure that has been set up by SELA leaders to both educate and vaccinate residents. We have deep roots within the SELA community and know how best to respond to the needs in our community.

The system currently in place isn't working for SELA and hasn't worked in the past. We need to work within the structures already in the community, people that are trusted community leaders, to ensure that we get as

many people vaccinated as possible. I know that together, we cannot just send the message that they matter to this state and country, but our actions can match our words. Time is of the essence and our lives literally depend on it.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Should you have questions or need additional information, please reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in pink ink that reads "Cristina Garcia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CRISTINA GARCIA
CHAIR, LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 58TH DISTRICT