

November 7, 2020

Ventura County Board of Supervisors
C/O Clerk of the Board

Re Agenda Item #32

Dear Supervisors Bennett, Huber, Long, Parks, and Zaragosa,

I am writing to express my strong support for approval of the use of \$3.65 million in Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund moneys to support the Farmworker Household Assistance Program(FHAP).

The FHAP has been a community collaboration from the beginning. The “Friday Zoom group” of farmers, farm worker advocates and community-based organizations identified the need and created the Organizing Committee to design a strategy which unfolded as follows:

- House Farm Workers! Is sponsor of the Program;
- The FHAP Organizing Committee raises the private donations;
- VCCF hosts the donation fund;
- HSA’s Farm Worker Resource Program administers the grants;
- The BOS matches funds raised.

And now, today, you are considering allocating CRF funds to ensure that every qualified farmworker household gets help.

To date, we have received \$320,000 in donations including \$125,000 from the ag community, and \$45,000 from individuals who sent gifts ranging from \$5 to \$4000.

I am extremely grateful for the widespread community recognition of both the essential role of farm workers and the suffering they are enduring.

And I am awed and beyond grateful for your contributions thus far and what you are contemplating today. The support of County leaders for our agricultural economy has deep roots. Actions that resound in my memory are the creation of the Guidelines for Orderly Development, John Flynn's leadership in addressing the housing needs of farm workers, and most recently, your creation of the Farmworker Resource Program, spearheaded by Supervisors Bennett and Zaragosa.

Finally, I send heartfelt thanks today to CEO Mike Powers, HSA Director Melissa Livingston, and to each and every one of you!

Ellen Brokaw
Chair, Board of Directors Brokaw Ranch Company
Treasurer, House Farm Workers!
Member, FHAP Organizing Committee

[REDACTED]
Santa Paula, CA 93060

[REDACTED]

