



HOUSE FARM WORKERS!

Promoting safe, decent, and affordable housing
for Ventura County farm workers since 2004.

Supervisor Kelly Long, Chair
Ventura County Board of Supervisors

November 7, 2020
By electronic mail

RE: Board of Supervisors meeting November 10, 2020

Item 32: Approval of the Use of \$3.65 Million in Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund Moneys to Support the Farmworker Household Assistance Program

Dear Chair Long,

It is a pleasure to write a letter of support for the recommendation by the Human Services Agency to allocate \$3.65 million in additional CARES Act money to the Farmworker Household Assistance Program. The Board of Supervisors has clearly recognized the critical importance of farmworkers in our community as essential workers since the early days of the pandemic – thank you! — and approval of this funding enhancement will ensure that thousands of them can remain in their homes during these difficult times.

The people who tend and harvest the food we eat are at particular risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the often crowded conditions in which they live and work. Many have had work hours reduced or lost jobs as markets for crops evaporated, or are juggling caring for children and family members at home. They are struggling to meet basic needs.

The Farmworker Household Assistance Program is the result of a grass-roots effort by agricultural employers and farmworker advocates to provide aid to these vulnerable members of our community. We appreciate the Board of Supervisors stepping up to be a partner in this effort by administering the program through the Farm Worker Resource Program and by providing early matching funds.

As you know, the deluge of applications for these funds has been overwhelming. The additional \$3.65 million in CARES Act moneys will make it possible for all of the qualified applications to be funded at a reduced amount of \$1,000 per household.

We urge you to approve the allocation of these funds to support the people who not only feed us, but also help make Ventura County the place we want to call home.

Sincerely,

Leslie Leavens, Chair
House Farm Workers!

cc: Supervisor Steve Bennett
Supervisor Linda Parks
Supervisor Bob Huber
Supervisor John C. Zaragoza