



November 9, 2020

Members of the Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

*RE: November 10, 2020 Board of Supervisors **Agenda Item 42**: Recommendation of Supervisor Zaragoza to Direct Staff to Negotiate a Pilot Project Labor Agreement (PLA)*

Dear Ventura County Supervisor,

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) has been the voice of the construction industry since 1920. We represent nearly 1,000 contractors, specialty, and associate member companies and tens of thousands of employees throughout California. We believe our industry is vital to the success of California and will be critical to the state's recovery.

I am writing regarding the "pilot" Project Labor Agreement (PLA) that is being proposed for six Ventura County projects. At the September 15th meeting, your board voted down a Community Workforce Agreement (CWA) and directed staff to return to the board with more information regarding the cost impacts of CWAs as well as the consideration of CWA alternatives. *We believe that it is best for staff to be given the opportunity to complete this process rather than moving forward with a PLA without fully knowing its potential impacts.*

AGC is committed to fair and equitable competition in all private and public construction markets. We believe the payment of prevailing wages is the appropriate mechanism for public owners to ensure that all contractors compete on an equal basis and that employees are paid fair wages and benefits.

Under a PLA, open shop (non-union) companies will be required to pay duplicative benefits and wages that are already being paid to their employees, while union companies may be out of compliance stemming from their existing collective bargaining agreements. Examples such as these impact the bidding process and ultimately deter companies from entering into project pursuits, creating less competition while increasing bid prices.

AGC of California is committed to free and open competition in all public construction markets, and we urge the board to consider these issues prior to voting on this pilot PLA. We support the county in its efforts to engage and employ local companies and residents, and with the right education and partnerships, those goals can be obtained through neutral workforce development and industry engagement.



Again, we urge you to give staff the opportunity to complete its work as per your board directive. However, should your board decide to move forward with this pilot, we ask that you include AGC and its members in the negotiations. We are committed to delivering timely projects that stay within budget and adhere to the highest safety standards.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email at garciae@agc-ca.org or via cell at (818) 294-4038.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elias Garcia".

Elias Garcia
Regional Government Affairs Manager, Southern CA
Associated General Contractors of California

