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November 9, 2020

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

*Subject: 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,

I am writing regarding the proposed "pilot" Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for six county projects in Ventura County. I urge you to reject this PLA and instead work with the contracting community to develop alternatives that will achieve your board's goals.

At the hearing on September 15th, your board voted to reject 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. With new board members being sworn in in a matter of weeks, it is best to allow the incoming board to decide the direction of county projects.

Government mandated labor agreements (PLAs, PSAs, and CWAs), whether they be project specific, municipality specific, or local workforce specific, should be negotiated with contractor input as the contractor that builds the work is ultimately the only entity held responsible to deliver the project under the terms and conditions of any agreement. Lack of contractor input on such agreements can erode the benefits of the competitive bidding process, and cause resources to be spent on additional administrative requirements rather than actual construction of the project itself. Agencies and their projects directly benefit from the expertise provided by contractors who manage the day-to-day construction process.

For decades, the county of Ventura has been developed, expanded, and maintained thanks to the work of both union and non-union companies. These companies comply with all labor and construction rules and continue to locally support the economic stimulation of the county. Therefore, should your board decide to move forward with this PLA, we urge you to include contractors at the negotiating table who can provide the relevant expertise necessary to ensure projects are delivered on time and on budget.

Very truly yours,

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