



COVID-19 RELIEF BUDGET REQUEST FOR SPECIAL DISTRICTS

California's special districts are local government agencies that provide essential services, including fire protection, utilities, parks, healthcare, mosquito abatement, and more to millions of Californians. **Yet, unlike cities, counties, schools, businesses, and nonprofits, special districts have been excluded from direct access to COVID-19 relief funding.**

The nonpartisan [Legislative Analyst's Office](#) (LAO) and [Little Hoover Commission](#) (LHC) highlight the need, with a [growing coalition](#) of over 700 organizations and local leaders asking for relief. Additionally, [46 State Legislators have signed a letter](#) to Governor Gavin Newsom supporting this request, as have [Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla](#) and [15 members of the California Congressional Delegation](#).

Missing from May Revise: *We Urge the Legislature to Use the Transfer Authority Explicitly Provided by Congress to Share a Portion of the \$27 Billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Funding with Special Districts Excluded from COVID-19 Relief.*

- **Parks and Open Spaces**

Need: \$266 Million.

Solution: Complement existing \$125 million Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization proposal with a COVID-19 relief grant program for districts providing park services.

- **Fire Protection**

Need: \$109 Million for districts providing fire protection to local communities, plus \$16 Million for districts, such as RCDs, engaged in mitigation work.

Solution: Complement existing \$5 billion Senate wildfire proposal or Governor's \$2 billion CalFire wildfire proposal with a COVID-19 relief grant program for special districts providing these services.

- **Healthcare**

Need: \$150 Million, per Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD).

Solution: Support ACHD request for \$32 million toward continued direct COVID-19 services, programs, and expenditures.

- **Other Local Services (Libraries, Mosquito Abatement, Veterans Memorial, Cemeteries, and Air Pollution)**

Need: \$20 Million

Solution: Establish a special district COVID-19 relief grant program through Department of Finance for those districts otherwise excluded from relief.

Included in May Revise:

We Ask the Legislature to Approve Proposed Funding Solutions to Support Local Services Provided by Special Districts.

- **Utilities**

\$2 billion in household assistance for non-payment of water and power utility debt due to the pandemic, specifically accessible by special district agencies, and \$5+ billion in water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

- **Ports**

\$250 million in relief funding for GO-Biz to allocate to California ports, several of which are special districts.

- **Transit**

Nearly \$3 billion in funding for priority transit and zero emission busses and vehicles.

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