



# CITY OF CARSON

June 15, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5019  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phillip Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anna Caballero  
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #4  
State Capitol, Room 5019  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Wendy Carrillo  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #4  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairs Skinner, Ting, Caballero, and Carrillo:

The City of Carson respectfully requests a budget commitment to cities of at least \$10 billion in the 2021-2022 State Budget to help cities recover from the pandemic, bolster investment towards meaningful solutions to homelessness, improve housing affordability, and advance critical infrastructure.

The fiscal consequences of the pandemic have had real world impacts on the city services Californians depend on daily. Nine out of 10 cities are currently experiencing a revenue shortfall due to the pandemic, 7 out of 10 cities anticipate that this shortfall will continue into next year, and 3 out of 4 cities will not, or are unsure if they can, balance their next budget without cutting services and staff.

While the local relief included in the American Rescue Plan will help cities continue to fight the pandemic and begin to rebuild their local economies, fiscal gaps still persist for many cities, whose revenue losses and unplanned expenditures far exceed the anticipated relief.

Along with many businesses and cities in California, the City of Carson's finances have been hit hard by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The City's sales tax revenues decreased by almost \$2.7 million during the stay-at-home order and the resulting economic slowdown. Other sources of revenue were reduced by about 16.5% (or an additional \$4.4 million). Specific infrastructure projects have been put on hold, as well as the purchase of vital equipment needed for our Public Works crews to do their work.

Additional funding to the City of Carson would allow us to improve quality of life for residents and others who recreate or work in our City by enabling us to enhance our infrastructure, parks, and improving ADA compliance throughout our city-owned assets.

The state budget surplus presents a historic opportunity to invest in cities, to ensure an equitable and comprehensive recovery, and address generational crises that were exacerbated by the pandemic. We urge the State and Legislature to appropriate at least \$10 billion to cities, specifically:

- **\$2 BILLION IN DIRECT AND FLEXIBLE STATE AID** to address local budget gaps left by the American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to prevent sustained cuts to critical government jobs and jumpstart core services including the easing of municipal hiring freezes. If the City of Carson were to receive additional funding from the State of California, we would anticipate using it primarily for infrastructure and maintenance purposes.
- **\$5 BILLION FOR EVIDENCE-BASED HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS** to support cities in their efforts towards ending homelessness and increasing the construction of housing that is affordable to all Californians. The economic uncertainty from the pandemic has contributed to supply shortages that have negatively impacted the housing and construction industries, worsening an already tight market for housing. The reduced housing inventory has contributed to a surge in prices that has led to an increased number of individuals experiencing homelessness. Additional funds from the State would assist the City of Carson in encouraging the building of affordable housing, providing necessary services to the homeless, and also enable the City to fund transitional housing for residents who are losing their residence and are about to become homeless.
- **AT LEAST \$3 BILLION FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE** to support expansion and related infrastructure upgrades in unserved and underserved communities to help cities catalyze projects statewide. In the City of Carson there is a need for broadband that would not only help residents but also attract contemporary industries and jobs that would benefit our citizens while also supporting the local and regional economy.
- **\$225 MILLION TO HELP FUND THE MANDATES TO DIVERT ORGANIC WASTE FROM LANDFILLS** to enable cities and the State stay on course to meet the ambitious State goals to reduce landfill disposal. Access to additional funding would help the City of Carson to educate our residents, commercial and industrial customers about this critical effort in the State and develop City programs to support the transition. Carson is home to one of a few organic waste facilities. A City-sponsored education program about how to divert good food to non-profits will be part of the educational strategy and approach. Based on the City's history as a location for landfills for 50+ years, our citizens deserve every opportunity to help contribute to and be educated about this effort.

All levels of government have worked together to combat this pandemic. As our work together shifts to recovery for all, let us continue that strong partnership by ensuring that no community is

left behind. Thank you for considering our request for assistance to protect local government operations and jobs, and to help the City of Carson emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever.

Sincerely,

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Mayor Lula Davis-Holmes

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Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Dear

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Council Member Jawane Hilton  
District 1

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Council Member Cedric L. Hicks, Sr.  
District 3

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Council Member

cc: Senator Steven Bradford & Assembly Member Mike A. Gipson  
Jeff Kiernan, Regional Public Affairs Manager (via email)  
League of California Cities, [cityletters@cacities.org](mailto:cityletters@cacities.org)