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March 18, 2022

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Tomas J. Aragon, MD, MPH  
Director and State Public Health Officer  
California Department of Public Health  
1615 Capitol Avenue, Suite 73.720  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Aragon,

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) concurs with the grant application being submitted by the California Department of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Office (EPO) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The grant funding from the CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement will continue to galvanize and sustain California's preparedness capacity and functions.

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) concurs with the grant application being submitted by the California Department of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Office (EPO) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The grant funding from the CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement will continue to galvanize and sustain California's preparedness capacity and functions.

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Based on increasing staff costs and reductions in PHEP and HPP funding, the 2022-23 funding plan reflects a few hard choices in sustaining the public health and medical response structure. The funding decisions have also been made in consultation with CCLHO, similar to previous years.

The application submitted by EPO further reflects robust deliberations between California public health leadership organizations, including CCLHO, to determine statewide preparedness priorities and strategic direction. The EPO application reflects the priorities discussed in this process. CCLHO leadership agrees that the plan represents a reasonable approach to advancing the state's public health preparedness efforts.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, commissions, and officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

Julie Vaishampayan, MD, MPH  
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers