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de la Guerra, Sheila **Public Comment - Group 14.**

From: Christian Arana <carana@latinocf.org>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:13 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Jose Garcia; Eduardo Garcia
Subject: Public Comment from the Latino Community Foundation
Attachments: Letter to Santa Barbara Boards of Supers - Latino Community Foundation.pdf



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June 13, 2020

Chairman Gregg Hart
Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Chairman Hart:

On behalf of the Latino Community Foundation (LCF), I write to advocate for the health and safety of farmworkers in Santa Barbara County during COVID-19. Although these essential workers are performing heroic services for the county and the state writ large, they continue to remain exposed to COVID-19 that should and needs to be addressed immediately for the public health safety of all the county's residents.

Over the last few weeks, we have seen concerning situations that leave our farmworkers vulnerable to a COVID-19 crisis. Virus outbreaks like the one in Oxnard two weeks ago should give us all pause to ask ourselves whether we are doing enough to protect our most vulnerable residents in our society. As it stands, 45% of residents in the county who have contracted COVID-19 are Latino.

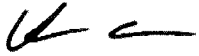
This past March, LCF created the Love Not Fear Fund to support grassroots Latino-led organizations serving Latino and immigrant communities across California. One of the organizations we have supported is CAUSE in Santa Barbara County. And most recently, our Santa Barbara Latino Giving Circle, a collection of civically engaged Latino philanthropists who live in the county, joined these philanthropic efforts by awarding a grant of their own to the 805UndocuFund.

But we know philanthropic efforts are not enough to address this pandemic.

It is for that reason that I respectfully ask that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors move quickly in providing protections for farmworkers at the county level. Several steps to ensure their safety must include on-site testing, COVID-19 education, inspection of workplaces for health violations, and access to support services (food, housing, mental health) if a worker tests positive.

LCF is the premier statewide foundation focused on unleashing the civic and economic power of Latinos in California. The foundation has the largest network of Latino philanthropists in the country and has invested \$10 million to build Latino civic and political power and leadership in the state. It is the only statewide foundation solely focused on investing in Latino youth and families in California.

Sincerely,



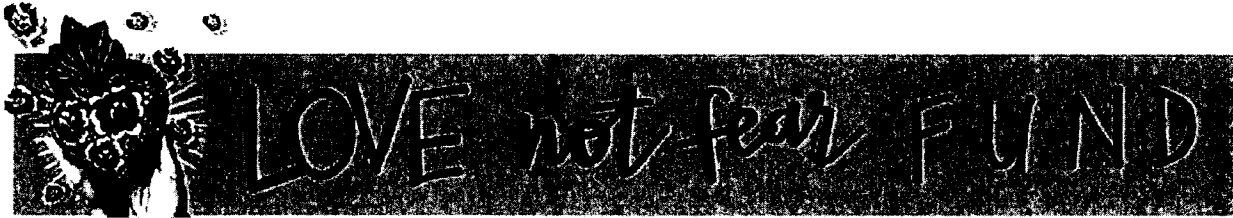
Christian Arana
Policy Director

Christian Arana, Policy Director

Latino Community Foundation | carana@latinocf.org

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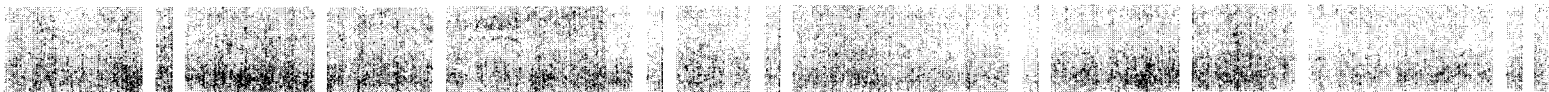
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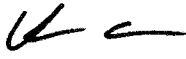
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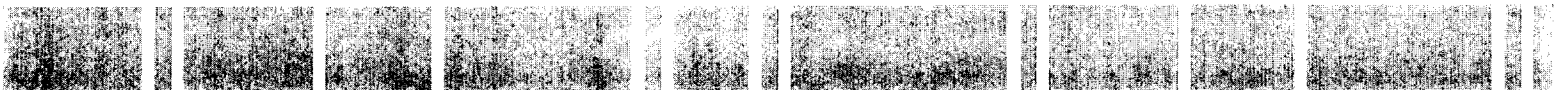
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Sincerely,



Christian Arana
Policy Director



de la Guerra, Sheila

From: jesus avelar <jesusmer18@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:56 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Ramirez, Angelica
Subject: Public comment July 14th
Attachments: Opinion Letter.pdf

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors,

My name is Jose Avelar, a current scholar of the Stanford Summer College Premedical program (SSCCPP). I would like to convey to you that the current efforts to protect farm workers from COVID-19 are not enough.

Farm workers are very essential to this community; they work endless hours with a very low paid salary. During this COVID-19 times, these workers should be offered more health protection because they risk their lives and those of their families to provide us with food to our table.

Prior to starting at the Stanford College Premedical program (SSCCPP), I worked on the farm with my dad. I observed the low-quality protection these individuals are facing. There were not enough face masks and hand sanitizers for all employees, the bathrooms were incredibly dirty and far away from working areas, insufficient clean water, and social distancing was not in practice.

I am asking you today to really take into consideration the following:

1. Ensure that workers are given face masks and hand sanitizer supplies for their own safety, as well as clean bathrooms. Bathrooms should be inspected more often because it is unacceptable the conditions they are kept in. Companies take longer to have the bathrooms clean to save money, and they do not care about the wellness of their farmer employees.

It is very uncomfortable and unsafe to enter a bathroom that stinks and is full of flies!

2. To provide farm workers with a safe environment. I was given the task of planting sweet potatoes in this big machine. Each sweet potato machine carried 8 workers in total and we were all in contact with one another. There should be more supervision making sure that farm

companies implement social distance practices. The farm owners force these hard-working people to work this way. Many of my coworkers complained about the unsafe work, but they did not do anything because they needed the job.

3. Farm workers should be provided free COVID-19 testing, as well as a good health insurance. Employees are exposed to farm pesticides and other work-related hazards that harm their health. It is imperative that we take care of these important people that bring food to our tables.

Thank you for your time and please consider allocating funds to support our local heroes.

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Cassandra Aguilar <cassandra.aguilar.sccpp@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:00 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Ramirez, Angelica
Subject: Council Meeting

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Board of Supervisors of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties:

We ask the Ventura and Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to protect the health and safety of farmworkers by directing Public Health and the Agricultural Commissioner to:

- Educate farmworkers on the additional sick leave they can receive if they contract the coronavirus and how they can access health care by sending a letter to all farmworkers and by doing direct outreach to farms.
- Develop an inspection program for farms to ensure that there are clean bathrooms and farmworkers have access to water, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Direct the Ventura County Farmworker Resource Program to actively inform farmworkers of their health and safety rights including on COVID-19 and to address complaints on health and safety.
- Develop a plan for emergencies such as wildfires to ensure that employers are providing their outdoor workers with N95 masks to protect them from smoke as required by state law.
- Ensure all written and verbal outreach is conducted to Indigenous and Spanish Speaking farmworker families in a way that is linguistically and culturally appropriate.
- Provide mobile COVID-19 testing sites at agriculture work sites.
- Create materials for outreach that de-stigmatize what a positive diagnosis means for farmworkers, including information on paid sick leave available to them.
- Ensure that workers who test positive for the coronavirus have access to social programs for food, peer support, and mental health services.

It is important that these concerns be addressed for the safety of our peer citizens. We are all learning how to properly work through this pandemic in the most efficient and caring way, but this should not mean that some are protected more than others. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Cassandra Aguilar