



Cypress, La Palma, Los Alamitos and Seal Beach

# West Orange County Cities

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February 22, 2021

Orange County Board of Supervisors  
Hall of Administration  
333 W Santa Ana Blvd  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Board of Supervisors,

As you know our region in west Orange County has been without representation at the county level. We have been working together as neighboring cities in an effort to promote safe and open access for our residents. Our cities are changing with each passing year; more and more of our residents have mobility issues and our population is both aging and becoming more diverse. Many of our residents are suffering as a result of the pandemic and are looking forward to reconnecting with their families and neighbors as safely as possible in accordance with all CDC guidelines.

We acknowledge that the COVID-19 vaccine is one of the most important tools to end the pandemic and we are eager to assist the county in providing these potentially life-saving vaccines to our residents. We know that the state will allocate vaccines based on several key factors in population including age, density, diversity and the number of COVID-19 positive cases. We are also aware that the county only gets a fraction of those vaccines for regional allocation. These facts make us fearful that without a voice at the table advocating for our region, we could potentially be forgotten, and our residents' needs ignored.

It is our request that as the state public health officers and staff are making these determinations, please consider the importance of having current data on the demographic breakdown of our cities and ensure they are not relying on older, previous census-based data figures. We would further request that you consider geographical disparities and the density of the population as it relates to traffic congestion. In many cases, the closest Super POD site may be a great distance away from our communities, putting the vaccine out of reach for many of our residents. We ask you to consider those who have mobility issues, and our seniors, and consider placing a vaccine site closer to our communities.

On the state COVID-19 website there are possible health side effects of the vaccine mentioned on your website, such as: fever, fatigue, etc. These potential side effects may make the patient unable to drive home immediately after the vaccine is administered and make it impossible for those independent seniors to then drive another 40-45 minutes back home, in traffic. The effect of these conditions is risking public safety and the safety of our seniors by asking more than

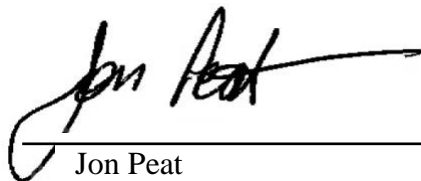
many of them can accomplish and the end result is that the ability to receive a life-saving vaccine is now out of reach for many of our residents.

Our city staff has collectively worked with the county health care staff to determine a number of local sites that would be accessible to all west Orange County residents. These sites would provide a safe vaccine location, within a reasonable distance from our communities, and all suggested sites would allow for social distancing and would allow compliance with all CDC guidelines. We ask you to strongly consider the Los Alamitos Racetrack as that proposed location. Given the population density of other communities, we understand that those are permanent POD sites. We are simply asking you to consider that our combined population numbers in west OC are very similar in size to many of those larger communities, and by providing even a mobile pod site in our region you are potentially saving the lives of our residents.

We understand that supply of the vaccine is limited, and the densest populations must be prioritized first, and we applaud your efforts to protect those communities. We are asking that in addition to these metrics, you consider geography as well as our senior citizen population when contemplating the possible locations for the mobile vaccine sites. Considering the vaccine is known to be approximately 95% effective, we are willing partners with our state and county to offer this life-saving service to our residents.

By following the data and prioritizing the health of all residents, you are allowing our communities to begin to start opening safely and allowing our residents to once again rejoin their families. We would like to make ourselves available to your staff to answer any questions you may have on the issues we have raised.

Sincerely,



Jon Peat  
Mayor, City of Cypress



Mark Chirco  
Mayor, City of Los Alamitos



Nitesh Patel  
Mayor, City of La Palma



Joe Kalmick  
Mayor, City of Seal Beach

cc: Dr. Clayton Chau, County Health Officer; Director, Orange County Health Care Agency  
Mr. Frank Kim, Chief Executive Officer, Orange County

City of Cypress  
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