



**CITY OF SAN DIEGO
COUNCIL PRESIDENT GEORGETTE GÓMEZ**

VIA E-MAIL ONLY

August 25, 2020

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Relief for California renters and homeowners

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am writing to respectfully urge you to partner with the State Legislature to address the looming evictions crisis in California due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 25, 2020, the City of San Diego adopted a temporary eviction moratorium to provide relief for tenants in San Diego experiencing economic hardship due to COVID-19. This moratorium expires on September 30, 2020, and allows residents to repay their accumulated rent on September 25, 2020. This September, the Council of the City of San Diego will consider an extension of the repayment period to remain in effect through December 30, 2020.

On August 19, 2020, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) released a report indicating that unemployment in our region is reported to be at 14%.¹ This can be compared to the region's unemployment during the Great Recession, which reached its peak at 10.8% in 2010. Many of the hardest hit zip codes continue to be in the central and southern parts of the County, housing traditionally underserved communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

Millions of Californians rely on leadership from all levels of government to prevent unnecessary evictions, ensure people are housed during a pandemic, and provide adequate relief to address economic hardship. Specifically, communities are in dire need of protections for tenants and homeowners alike, in the form of emergency rental assistance; an extension of a statewide moratorium with an associated extension of the

¹ https://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_4703_27924.pdf

period to pay back any unpaid rent; and an extension of mortgage payments. These actions are necessary in order to avoid an exacerbation of our existing housing and homelessness crises.

I applaud your efforts in continuing to ensure the safety of our most vulnerable populations during this pandemic. I urge you to work closely with Senate and Assembly leadership to enact legislation that would provide relief for millions of struggling renters and homeowners in California. If you have any questions, please reach out to Matt Yagyagan, Council Director of Government Affairs, at myagyagan@sandiego.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Georgette Gómez", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Georgette Gómez
Council President, City of San Diego