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August 4, 2022

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Supervisor Solis  
Supervisor Hahn  
Supervisor Barger  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 W. Temple St., Room 866  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Agenda Item #4**

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of SoCal Grantmakers (SCG), I wanted to express our appreciation for the productive partnership that has emerged between LA County staff and representatives of community-based organizations (CBOs) through the Equity in County Contracting initiative (ECC) over the past year. We are pleased to endorse Supervisor Mitchell & Supervisor Kuehl's motion on the August 9 agenda to implement our initial recommendations.

SCG is a community of more than 300 philanthropists, foundations, and grantmakers who work in partnership with community leaders and nonprofits to make a difference in California. We serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas, working to improve cooperation among funders and to increase our knowledge of community problems in order to tackle critical issues and achieve shared goals. As representatives of the philanthropic sector that invests over \$4 billion annually in Los Angeles' nonprofit sector and has deep relationships with community partners, we share your commitment to an equitable recovery and believe this motion will help to address some of the barriers to community-based organizations contracting with LA County.

The motion represents a real commitment by the County to move beyond the planning process to achieve more specific accountability for implementation of the policies and practices that will allow more funds to be targeted to the areas hardest hit by the pandemic and reach our County's most vulnerable citizens. We believe these specific process and funding improvements are essential, and we look forward to continuing to work with County staff to improve, update and streamline these essential systems. The role of community engagement in system change is central to the ECC's continued success.

We are pleased to see that the motion includes commitment to:

- Creating a centralized contracting office;
- Updating the County's staff training and technical assistance;
- Tracking ECC progress against goals;
- Expanding the social enterprise and prompt payment programs;
- Addressing the timely and adequate compensation and reimbursement issues that threaten the sustainability of CBO service providers.

We look forward to these changes moving ahead in a timely way, with staff from ISD, ARDI, the CEO's office to strengthen the ECC partnership and continuing to find efficiencies that support our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Essel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine Essel  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
SoCal Grantmakers