



## MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 18, 2022

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
Senate President pro Tempore  
1021 O Street, Suite 8518  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Scott Wilk  
Senate Republican Leader  
1021 O Street, Suite 7640  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Speaker, California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 8330  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable James Gallagher  
Assembly Republican Leader  
1021 O Street, Suite 4740  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### RE: State Budget Funding Request — \$500 million for the Housing and Economic Development Program

Dear Senate President pro Tempore Atkins, Speaker Rendon, Senator Wilk, and Assemblymember Gallagher:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of the League of California Cities' one-time allocation request of \$500 million to establish a Housing and Economic Development Program. These funds would help cities who adopt local property tax-increment financing tools to support affordable housing, upgrade essential infrastructure, and spur economic development.

Following the dissolution of redevelopment, the City has actively pursued innovative strategies to develop affordable housing and advance priorities for economic empowerment and climate adoption in Long Beach. Between 2014 and 2019, the City facilitated the construction of almost 1,700 new affordable units, preserved nearly 2,000 units, and rehabilitated 367 units. Additionally, in 2017, the Long Beach City Council adopted the City's 10-Year [Blueprint for Economic Development](#) (Blueprint) to define priorities leading toward the creation of businesses and well-paying jobs as well as increase the standards of living for all Long Beach residents. The City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan also bolsters the development of sustainable infrastructure that could benefit from tax-increment financing options.

The City plans to utilize tax-increment financing tools to establish several districts supporting economic development around industry clusters such as aerospace, health, tourism, and arts. A State-local partnership to provide matching funds through the League of California Cities' proposed budget request would help expand the reach and viability of these tools.

This partnership will aid cities like Long Beach to advance needed affordable housing, public infrastructure, and activate economic development and job creation. Thank you for your consideration of this vital program.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia  
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly  
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70<sup>th</sup> District