

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

We are writing to express support for the City of Tustin’s (“City”) reconsideration request for a Proclamation of a State of Emergency, which would allow the City to access critical federal funds for remediation efforts following the hangar fire in the former Marine Corps Air Station that started on November 7, 2023, in Tustin, California.

First, we would like to thank the Office of Emergency Services (“CalOES”) for its role in monitoring the incident early on. We share our constituents’ concerns regarding the fire’s impact on public health and the environment, as well as the City’s fiscal position after investing millions of dollars into toxic debris cleanup. To date, the City has spent \$54.2 million for disaster response and debris cleanup, and costs continue to grow unsustainably. While the Navy delivered \$11 million to the City, outstanding remediation costs are a key concern.

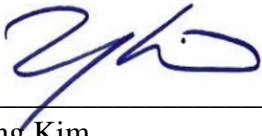
Additionally, the Tustin hangar fire has impacted over 1,500 homes and 14,000 people, burdening residents financially and emotionally. Many of our residents still have concerns about staying in their homes or sending their children to school due to possible asbestos or lead exposure from the soil, windowsills, door frames, etc. Some residents have paid out-of-pocket to hire their own contractors to test for lead or asbestos in their homes, with some results being positive. At town meetings, residents have requested additional testing, remediation, and reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses related to the fire. We believe that the serious health risks associated with long-term exposure to asbestos and lead warrant essential state funds to ensure the health and well-being of our constituents and their families.

We have worked closely with the City, U.S. Navy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other relevant stakeholders to ensure our communities’ safety, but long-term recovery efforts will require additional funding and resources. With that being said, we would like to request that you reconsider making a state of emergency proclamation to administer much-needed state financial assistance for the City’s remediation efforts. Additionally, we ask that you clarify your

public statements made to the media last week regarding the \$73 million threshold amount that is required for a disaster declaration and why this would disqualify the City from receiving the much-needed relief it is requesting.

We appreciate your continued interest in recovery and remediation efforts and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Young Kim
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

CC: Nancy Ward (Director, CalOES), State Senator Dave Min, Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris, County of Orange Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento & Supervisor Donald P. Wagner, City of Tustin