



## **SUPPORT FOR CALIFORNIA COMPLETE COUNT AND 2020 CENSUS**

Whereas, participation in the United States Census, which is mandated by the U.S. Constitution, enumerates every person residing in the country regardless of citizenship status, and is fundamental to a fair and representative democracy; and,

Whereas, the United States Census has critical implications for the state of California, and determines its allocation of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives and \$675 billion dollars in federal funding; and,

Whereas, according to the California Community Foundation 2017 Census Landscape Scan, the 1990 Census was one of the most inaccurate in U.S. history, and according to the California Legislative Analyst's Office, undercounting likely cost California one seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and at least \$2 billion in federal funds; and,

Whereas, the United States Census Bureau's Low Response Score (LRS) identifies communities whose characteristics predict low census participation and California Census 2020 has identified hard-to-count census tracts due to demographic characteristics and Sonoma County includes hard-to-count census tracts; and,

Whereas, state and local government, including individual school districts, lose out on a projected \$1,950 dollars per year for each Sonoma County resident who is not counted in the census; and

Whereas, given that the census is only administered every ten years, there is a loss of \$19,500 per uncouned resident; and,

Whereas, the California legislature has allocated \$187.2 million dollars to local government agencies and non-profit agencies across California, including the County of Sonoma, United Way of the Wine Country and Sonoma County Office of Education to support our County to increase an accurate census count in California; and,

Whereas, the potential addition of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census Questionnaire created an environment of fear and distrust in immigrant communities when federal law prohibits the use of individual census data by law enforcement to ensure the safety of respondents; and,

Whereas, California has diverse demographics which make it more difficult to count the population than most states and Sonoma County has a more challenging population to count due to displacement from fires; and,

Whereas, the federal target is to count 60.5 percent or more of the population in hard-to-count census tracts and Sonoma County schools and communities would benefit economically from a more accurate count of residents.

Alegria De La Cruz,  
Clerk of the Board