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# Assembly California Legislature



**ROBERT RIVAS**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTIETH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
AGRICULTURE  
APPROPRIATIONS  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
RULES

April 22, 2020

The Honorable Director Mark Ghilarducci  
Director of Office of Emergency Services  
3650 Schriever Ave  
Mather, CA 95655

## **Re: Support for Monterey County PPE and Supplies to Expand Testing for Farmworkers Request**

Dear Director Ghilarducci:

Among the numerous disruptions caused by COVID-19 in our State, I believe the impacts on our agricultural sector and farmworkers can be more fully supported. It is imperative that there be minimal disruption in the production and movement within California's food supply.

Currently in the State, growers have banded together to establish task forces and councils to issue guidance and training to provide workers with the proper resources in attempt to mitigate the spread of the virus. We acknowledge industry's efforts as being steadfast and timely in the wake of this crisis. Nonetheless, California is facing a massive shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). More specifically, there is a shortage of protective face masks, which are essential to shield the wearer from airborne particles and from liquid contaminating the face. It is vital that farmworkers be supplied with these masks and other protective equipment in order to reduce the possibility of the virus spreading further amongst other workers and their families.

In addition to PPE, it is crucial that testing and the staff necessary to conduct the testing be available to farmworkers so that the spread of COVID-19 can be slowed through preventative measures such as self-isolation or quarantine when a positive case is found. Such prevention is difficult, if not impossible, if adequate testing is not provided in a timely manner.

That is why I am supporting the recent request made by Monterey County to the Office of Emergency Services, asking that a minimum of 180,000 face masks be made available to farmworkers. These essential workers are continuing their duties of harvesting California's crops, often in large groups, increasing the chances of contracting COVID-19. In order to maintain our food supply while protecting some of our most vulnerable essential workers, I respectfully urge the approval of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R Rivas".

ROBERT RIVAS  
Assemblymember, 30th District