March 22, 2021

The Honorable Douglas A. Ducey, Governor
State of Arizona
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Federal COVID-19 Point of Distribution (POD) in Pima County

Dear Governor Ducey:

We appreciate all of the effort that you and the Arizona Department of Health Services have put into the COVID-19 vaccination program statewide. We have made significant progress in vaccinating a large portion of our population, particularly those who are most susceptible to hospitalization or death.

In Pima County, we have the benefit of a State POD at the University of Arizona and several regional PODs operated by Pima County. We have also enlisted the assistance of our community health centers and partner organizations to provide mobile clinics to disadvantaged and minority populations.

We understand the federal government may be willing to locate a federal POD in Pima County. Pima County is prepared to provide any and all assistance in setting up this POD such that it does not require resources from the State. In addition, the vaccine supplied by federal policy will not deduct from the State vaccine allocation.

This opportunity potentially provides another 300,000 or more vaccines in Pima County that would be targeted for our low-income and minority communities. We understand the State has declined to accept the federal offer for a variety of reasons. We would appreciate your reconsidering this position in asking the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to establish a federal POD in Pima County.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Sharon Bronson  The Honorable Regina Romero
Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors  Mayor, City of Tucson

The Honorable Bob Teso  The Honorable Ed Honea
Mayor, City of South Tucson  Mayor, Town of Marana

The Honorable Joseph Winfield  The Honorable Tom Murphy
Mayor, Town of Oro Valley  Mayor, Town of Sahuarita

c: Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator
Michael Ortega, City Manager, City of Tucson
Veronica Moreno, City Manager, City of South Tucson
Terry Rozema, Town Manager, Town of Marana
Mary Jacobs, Town Manager, Town of Oro Valley
L. Kelly Udall, Town Manager, Town of Sahuarita