

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0550

January 29, 2021

Tammy Littrell  
Acting Regional Administrator  
FEMA Region IX Office  
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200  
Oakland, CA, 94607

Dear Ms. Littrell:

I write with an urgent request to facilitate the reimbursement of Palomar Medical Center Escondido, a constituent organization in my District, for their COVID-19 relief efforts.

In short, at the direction of the government, Palomar Medical Center (Palomar) invested substantial resources to outfit space for regional COVID-19 medical needs, and now that the space has been activated for patient use at the request of Governor Gavin Newsom, it is time that clear reimbursement guidance and subsequent funding be provided to Palomar promptly.

With coordination of San Diego County officials, Cal OES officials, and FEMA officials, Palomar built out a 202-bed Federal Medical Station on two floors of the hospital. Palomar quickly stood up IT capabilities and extended oxygen access by constructing ports to 40 of 100 beds. Activated on December 31, the unit is in use and Palomar is helping to alleviate pressure on neighboring communities' health care resources.

On Wednesday, January 27, 2021, I toured the facility and discussed the reimbursement needs with their team. The Palomar critical care site is a remarkable new asset for the region in the continuing fight against COVID-19. As the response continues, a delayed reimbursement timeline may jeopardize the ability of Palomar to continue its highest level of preparedness and health services. We must not let this happen.

I urge you to continue to prioritize the reimbursement of this critical regional pandemic response resource. My office will continue to work with your team to ensure federal responsibilities are fully fulfilled. Additionally, we appreciate your team's engagement with Palomar officials to date.

I look forward to your response as to a timeline for anticipated conclusion.

Regards,



DARRELL ISSA  
Member of Congress

Cc: Diane Hansen, CEO, Palomar Health;  
Reggie Salvador, Chief, Legislative and External Affairs, California Governor's Office of  
Emergency Services