

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

Craft-Maintenance Division State of California Unit 12
Locals 3, 39 & 501, AFL-CIO

February 12, 2021

*Sent via Certified U.S. Mail: 7019 2280 0001 9195 1797
And via Email: Paul.Starkey@calhr.ca.gov*

Mr. Paul Starkey
Deputy Director of Labor Relations, CalHR
1515 "S" Street, North Building, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95811-7258

Dear Mr. Starkey,

We previously discussed the Families First Corona Virus Response Act (FFCRA), AB1867, and the concerns regarding the expiration of the associated federal mandated Emergency Paid Sick Leave and Emergency Family Medical Leave Expansion. Your office indicated there would be a response to our concerns. As of today, the Union has not received a response.

As we all are acutely aware, Covid-19 has not gone away. We continue to receive an abundance of calls and messages from our members, who are still struggling with the challenges Covid-19 has placed on them. While many of our members have suffered through Covid-19, others have been forced to quarantine. When these events occurred, departments have told our members to use their own personal leaves. As a result, our members have drastically drained their leave balances. Or worse, for individuals with little or no leave balances, they may face financial losses.

In addition to our request to extend the FFCRA and AB 1867 benefits, concerns exist regarding our members who wish to receive the Covid-19 Vaccine. Our office is concerned with several practical barriers under the current framework and would like to discuss several options to protect our members who wish to receive the Vaccine. As an example, one option could include the State covering any employees' absence when they "volunteer" to receive the vaccine. This option, along with others, would help to protect all state workers by increasing participation in vaccine programs.

There is no time to waste. The State of California has the unique opportunity to lead by example, support the state work force in time of need, extend the benefits the Federal Government made optional, and eliminate barriers to participation in voluntary vaccine programs.

We would like to continue to meet to address these imminent concerns please provide the dates and times of your availability.

Sincerely,



Brandy Johnson
District Representative, State of California
Unit 12 & Unit 13 Coordinator

cc: Deric Barnes, Local 501, Public Sector Director
Travis Tweedy, Local 3, Public Sector Director
Lily Cervantes, Labor Relations Officer, CalHR

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