

County of Santa Clara Health System Administration
2325 Enborg Lane, Suite 320, San Jose, CA 95128
Phone: 1-408-885-4030 • Fax: 1-408-885-4050



DATE: February 5, 2021

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D., County Executive

FROM: René G. Santiago, Deputy County Executive &
Director, County of Santa Clara Health System

SUBJECT: Follow up from Federal Affairs Advocacy Task Force Meeting -
General Perna and FEMA Funding

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René G. Santiago

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During the February 3, 2021 Federal Affairs Advocacy Task Force meeting (Item 8), Supervisor Lee asked about General Gustave Perna's role in the COVID-19 vaccination distribution effort under President Biden and whether the counties would be able to receive the 100% reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the recent Executive Order. This memo provides the requested information.

With regard to the question regarding whether General Perna is still involved in Operation Warp Speed, a number of individuals involved in Operation Warp Speed under the Trump Administration have left or been asked to leave. However, General Perna will remain as Chief Operating Officer in charge of logistics. What was previously referred to as "Operation Warp Speed" has been incorporated into Dr. David Kessler's "Covid Response" portfolio. Additional information can be found in this [article](#).

During the meeting, reference was made to the Biden Executive Order which stated that FEMA now would pay all costs for COVID-19 response dating back to January 2020. The question was asked whether any of that money be available to counties.

From information currently available, it appears that counties will be eligible for the 100% reimbursement for FEMA activities. The [announcement](#) references "states, Tribes, territories, and jurisdictions" while the [Memorandum](#) to the agencies references "State, local, Tribal, and territorial" governments eligible for assistance under Public Assistance Category B (PA-B). The [FEMA website](#) shows all California counties as eligible under PA-B. While the Memorandum has not yet been printed in the Federal Register or implemented, it does appear that Santa Clara County will be eligible for the increased reimbursement rate.