

DISTRICT 1  
JESUS EDUARDO ESCOBAR

DISTRICT 2  
MARTHA CARDENAS-SINGH

DISTRICT 3  
PEGGY PRICE

DISTRICT 4  
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DISTRICT 5  
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COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER

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March 25, 2026

**RE: Urgent Concerns Regarding Sonrisa Villa Assisted Living Facility in Holtville and the Need for Additional Senior Care Resources in Imperial County**

Dear Senator Padilla and Assemblymember Gonzalez,

On behalf of the Imperial County Board of Supervisors, we write to request your immediate assistance regarding the uncertain future of the Sonrisa Villa Assisted Living Facility in the City of Holtville, which is currently operating under a Temporary Suspension Order issued on January 10, 2026. A temporary management company was brought in to oversee operations under a 90-day contract that is scheduled to expire on April 10, 2026. Approximately 70 residents remain at the facility, and the potential closure of this site would have significant consequences for seniors, families, workers, and the availability of assisted living services throughout Imperial County.

Sonrisa Villa plays a uniquely important role in the County's care continuum. It is believed to be the only assisted living facility in Imperial County that currently accepts Medi-Cal residents, making it a critical option for low-income seniors who require residential care services. If the facility closes, many residents may have no local placement options and could be forced to relocate outside of the Imperial Valley, away from their families, support systems, and familiar medical providers. The loss of the only Medi-Cal-serving assisted living facility in a rural county represents a serious gap in the long-term care system and highlights the challenges faced by underserved regions.

In addition to the direct impact on residents, the potential closure would affect local workers and create broader economic consequences for the community. Relocation of residents outside Imperial County would shift spending related to pharmacy services, physician visits, transportation, and other support services away from the local economy. It may also increase strain on hospitals, emergency medical services, Adult Protective Services, the Area Agency on Aging, and family caregivers who already face limited resources in a rural setting. It would also place added pressure on the Public Administrator/Public Guardian Office, as hospitals facing discharge challenges may have more cases involving vulnerable seniors who lack appropriate placement, decision-making support, or safe transition options.

This situation also reflects larger challenges facing Imperial County's aging population. The number of older adults in our region continues to grow, and many seniors live in poverty, face language barriers, or rely on Medi-Cal and other public programs to meet their care needs. Rural counties like Imperial already

have a limited number of assisted living, residential care, and long-term care options. The potential loss of one of the few facilities serving this population underscores the need for greater state attention to senior services in underserved communities. The goals outlined in California's Master Plan for Aging, including strengthening community-based services, improving access in rural areas, and allowing older adults to remain in their home communities, are directly implicated by the current situation in Holtville.

We respectfully request your assistance in working with the California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division, the California Department of Aging, the Department of Health Care Services, and other appropriate state agencies to:

- Ensure that a safe and coordinated plan is in place for the current residents, with priority given to keeping individuals within Imperial County whenever possible;
- Explore options to maintain operations at the facility or identify a qualified operator willing to continue services locally;
- Evaluate available state funding, waivers, or pilot programs that could support assisted living capacity in rural counties, particularly for Medi-Cal eligible seniors; and
- Work with the County to develop long-term solutions to address the shortage of residential care and aging services in Imperial County.

The Imperial County Board of Supervisors is committed to working collaboratively with the State and our legislative delegation to ensure that seniors in our region can age with dignity, remain close to their families, and continue receiving care within their own community. The situation at Sonrisa Villa underscores both the urgency of the current circumstances and the need for long-term planning to ensure rural counties are not left without essential senior care services.

We appreciate your partnership and respectfully request your assistance in addressing this urgent matter. Imperial County stands ready to participate in any discussions with state agencies to identify both immediate solutions for current residents and long-term strategies to strengthen the senior care system in the Imperial Valley.

Sincerely,



Peggy Price  
Chairwoman, District 3  
County of Imperial

cc: California Department of Social Services – Community Care Licensing Division  
California Department of Aging  
California Department of Health Care Services  
Imperial County Department of Social Services  
Imperial County Area Agency on Aging  
Imperial County Adult Protective Services