

County of Placer

Board of Supervisors

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District 4

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District 5



May 6, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for Placer County to Reopen Responsibly

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Placer County Board of Supervisors, I want to thank you for taking prudent and decisive action early on behalf of all Californians to address our COVID-19 emergency, while maintaining continuity of operations with federally designated critical infrastructure sectors. Your executive order on March 19th avoided many of the more anticipated devastating outcomes of this pandemic, specifically focused on overburdening of our hospital systems.

However, Placer County public health data suggests that we are well prepared to safely allow residents into the workplace and are requesting that the State of Emergency Order be lifted and decrees be determined on a County-by-County basis versus a statewide order that does not accurately represent the same level of impact across the State of California [*please see Resolution No. 2020-078 passed by the Placer County Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting on May 5, 2020*].

Placer County has developed guidelines [*please see Reopen Placer*] to reopen responsibly for our workplace sectors, as defined by California's risk continuum, building on local capacity and public health officer guidance. Placer County's reopening framework illustrates our local preparedness, informed by public health guidance.

Placer County is fortunate to have had only eight COVID-19 fatalities (which equates to 2/100,000 people) and our infection rates are thankfully among the lowest in the state. Our Public Health Department, and coordinated partners, are prepared to monitor and protect our citizens through the following:

1. Accelerated in-county testing with two new sites opening this week in Roseville, CA and Kings Beach, CA.
2. Skilled and scalable contact tracing utilizing State and County workforce, as necessary.

3. Developed isolation protocols and supporting those who test positive or are exposed. Our hospitals are prepared for surge, which we recognize could occur at any time in the future. Our healthcare system currently have at least a 30-day supply of PPE.
4. We continue to attend to the needs of our most vulnerable populations including the homeless, elderly, those in congregate living situations, and those with chronic medical conditions. Utilizing Project Roomkey, we have identified and worked with our local lodging partners to house our vulnerable population.

Furthermore, we have been receiving public health officer guidance to determine operational protocols for our business community to ensure workplaces are ready to open safely for both employees and patrons. These efforts have included extensive social distancing educational materials for business owners. We will continue to meet with our local business community and chambers of commerce from throughout the county to support them and emphasize the importance of following these guidelines. We are confident we have the commitment and support of our business community to help reopen responsibly.

There is no denying COVID-19 has significantly impacted life around the globe. We know this virus will have lasting impacts not only on the individuals directly affected, but our economic vitality is in serious jeopardy which will have long term consequences on our community at large unless the stay-at-home order is lifted and redirected toward areas of the State that have the greatest need.

We are asking for our immediate lifting of Executive Order N-33-20 requiring all individuals in California to stay in their place of residence. Allow local areas to determine the best course of action based on sound local public health officer guidance.

Sincerely, COUNTY of PLACER



Bonnie Gore, Chair (District 1)
Placer County Board of Supervisors

Enclosures:

- ✓ Placer County Resolution No. 2020.078
- ✓ Reopen Placer County Toolkit
- ✓ COVID-19 Placer County Recover Taskforce Framework Organizational Chart

Cc: Placer County Board of Supervisors
Todd Leopold, Placer County Executive Officer
Dr. Aimee Sisson, Placer County Public Health Officer
Shaw/Yoder/Antwih

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of:

Resolution of the Board of Supervisors Regarding the
State of California State of Emergency and
Associated Orders and Guidelines on COVID-19.

Resolution No.: 2020 -078

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer
at a regular meeting held May 05, 2020, by the following vote:

Ayes: WEYGANDT, HOLMES, UHLER, GUSTAFSON, GORE

Noes: NONE

Absent: NONE

Signed and approved by me after its passage.


Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:


Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of
Emergency ("State of Emergency") to formalize emergency actions and help prepare for the
broader spread of the COVID-19 disease; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20
ordering all individuals in California to stay in their place of residence except as needed to
maintain continuity of operations of federal critical infrastructure sectors, thereby reducing and
stopping non-essential businesses from continuing operations ("Stay at Home Order"); and

WHEREAS, the original intent of the State of Emergency and subsequent Stay at Home
Order ("State Actions") was to prevent the catastrophic failure of the hospital system due to an
anticipated surge of Covid-19 cases; and

WHEREAS, the key implementation step of the State Actions was designed to "flatten
the curve", so as to avoid the overcrowding of our hospitals; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the Stay at Home Order, the State adopted guidelines that define which businesses are “essential” and thus can remain open, under specific conditions, during the term of the State at Home Order. By exclusion from that definition of “essential”, all other businesses are considered “non-essential”. By issuing the Stay at Home Order and the guidelines, the state determined which businesses would remain open and survive versus which businesses would be required to close, and likely fail; and

WHEREAS, the hospital system is at risk of failure, not due to overcrowding from the anticipated surge which never occurred, but due to too few patients; and

WHEREAS, the “curve” statewide (and particularly in Placer County) has been flattened; and

WHEREAS, the current COVID-19 situation might meet the “state of emergency” threshold in a few California counties, but is nowhere near a justifiable “state of emergency” standard in Placer, nor numerous other counties in California; and

WHEREAS, state law allows for a “State of Emergency” decree on a County-by-County basis, in order to meet the needs of local emergencies that are not being experienced statewide; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code, Title 2, Division 1, Chapter 7, Article 13, Section 8629 reads, “The Governor *shall* proclaim the termination of a state of emergency *at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant*. All of the powers granted the Governor by this chapter with respect to a state of emergency shall terminate when the state of emergency has been terminated by proclamation of the Governor or by concurrent resolution of the Legislature declaring it at an end.” (Emphasis added.)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors, County of Placer, State of California asserts that the current State of Emergency is no longer warranted statewide, and requests that the Governor immediately adhere to state law and proclaim the termination of the State of Emergency, including rescinding any and all orders and guidelines, including the Stay at Home Order, that require Placer County residents to stay at home and that result in categorizing any Placer County businesses as “non-essential”.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors, County of Placer, State of California that the Governor acknowledge and allow counties to craft local guidelines to address COVID-19.