



BAKERSFIELD

THE SOUND OF *Something Better*

May 6, 2020

Chairman Perez and Members of the Board of Supervisors
County of Kern Board of Supervisors
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Re: Letter of Support for Local Discretion in Reopening Kern County

Dear Chairman Perez,

On behalf of the City of Bakersfield, I offer this letter of support for Kern County in any efforts that you pursue to seek local discretion in reopening Kern County.

On March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California, Gavin Newsom, proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19. On March 19, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order N-33-20, ordering all individuals in the State of California to stay at home except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure. The stay at home order was designed to slow the spread of COVID-19 to allow communities time to prepare to meet a surge in health care demands caused by the disease and avoid a dramatic increase in cases.

On April 28, the Governor announced a four-phase plan to reopen local economies, including the opportunity for regional variations in the stay at home order. The COVID-19 health impacts to Kern County have been relatively mild, with significant capacity remaining in the health care system to respond. The County and the City of Bakersfield have taken significant steps to implement the stay at home order and prepare for COVID-19 impacts, we are well prepared. Our region was fortunate to take these steps before there were any confirmed COVID-19 cases, allowing us to significantly flatten the curve. Kern County and the City of Bakersfield have demonstrated the ability to work collaboratively with our Public Health officials to address COVID-19 health concerns and create appropriate precautionary guidelines.

Kern County has not been impacted by COVID-19 to the same degree as some counties. Given the low impact and our demonstrated ability to establish effective precautionary guidelines, the City of Bakersfield is in support of any efforts you make to receive authorization to reopen the County. With increased flexibility and local discretion to evaluate COVID-19 impacts, the County of Kern could work with local industry leaders to establish guidelines to safely re-open the economy in phases. While the health impacts to Kern County have been limited, the economic impacts to Kern County and the City of Bakersfield have been drastic. Our region is prepared to safely and cautiously determine ways to begin opening our local economy.

Again, we support you in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Christian Clegg
City Manager

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