

MONTEREY COUNTY



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May 26, 2020

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

The Honorable Mark Ghaly, MD
Secretary, CA Health and Human Services Agency
160 Ninth Street, Room 460
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Sonia Y. Angell, MD
State Public Health Officer and California Department of Public Health Director
P.O. Box 997377 MS 0500
Sacramento, CA 95899

Re: Variance Attestation by Monterey County Health Officer

Dear Governor Newsom, Secretary Ghaly, and Director Angell:

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey is pleased to provide you with its strong and unanimous support for the attestation that the County's Health Officer, Dr. Edward Moreno, is making with respect to meeting the readiness criteria set forth in the May 18, 2020, COVID-19 County Variance Attestation Form. The Board understands that the purpose of the Form is to permit counties, that are able to demonstrate an ability to protect the public and essential workers, to progress more quickly through Stage 2 of the State's Roadmap to Pandemic Resilience. The County of Monterey is now one of those counties.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Moreno has kept the Board of Supervisors and the public apprised of the very latest information through regular briefings and press availability. In addition, Dr. Moreno has conducted weekly briefings with local city leaders with this constant communication leading to robust support by city leaders. The Board believes that the shelter in place orders issued by Dr. Moreno since the Governor's proclamation of a state of emergency on March 4, 2020, and the public's compliance with those orders, have helped to "flatten the curve" of the virus in the County, and have allowed Dr. Moreno to now execute the updated attestation.

Hon. Gavin Newsom
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We strongly agree with each element of the attestation that Dr. Moreno has executed. He and his staff, with the support of the County Health Department and the Emergency Operations Center, are actively monitoring infection through epidemiology, implementing alternative sheltering measures where necessary, offering a sufficient amount of testing and contact tracing, monitoring hospital capacity and plans for surge, and protecting vulnerable populations. The Board supports the need to protect vulnerable populations, continue social distancing, and monitor indicators that may trigger the need to reinstate more restrictive measures. The County has also made available guidance for our essential critical infrastructure workforce on how to structure the physical environment to protect essential workers. We also have sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect our essential workers, both now and as we move further in Stage 2.

As you may know, the wine industry is an important sector of the County's economy, and there are numerous wineries and tasting rooms throughout our communities. We therefore strongly encourage and support the inclusion of Wineries and Tasting Rooms as businesses that the State deems eligible for reopening in Stage 2, with appropriate social distancing and other protective measures, and the Board appreciates your consideration of that issue.

In conclusion, the Board of Supervisors strongly supports the attestation by Dr. Moreno that the County can meet the readiness criteria outlined by the CDPH to allow for progressing more quickly through Stage 2 of the Governor's Roadmap to Pandemic Resilience. Thank you for the opportunity for the Board of Supervisors to express its support.

Sincerely,

Chris M. Lopez
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Supervisor Luis Alejo
Supervisor John Phillips
Supervisor Jane Parker
Supervisor Mary Adams
Dr. Edward Moreno, County Health Officer
Charles J. McKee, County Administrative Officer
Elsa Jimenez, Health Department Director
Leslie J. Girard, County Counsel