

# NORTH STATE LEADERS



April 24, 2020

The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom  
State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 94814

Governor Newsom:

There is no denying that COVID-19 has significantly affected life around the globe. With more than 37,000 confirmed cases in California alone, we know that this virus will have lasting impacts not only on the individuals directly affected, but also on our society as a whole. Further, we have seen just how truly vital California's quick action in issuing Stay-at-Home orders and instituting social distancing measures was for flattening the curve in our great state.

The early and thoughtful response in our six rural counties has been exemplary. Our infection rate has remained low, at 69 total cases in our six counties, which have a combined population of approximately 500,000 people. 50 of those individuals have fully recovered. As of today, there is only one confirmed COVID-19 patient in the ICU. Additionally, acute hospital admissions are down in our region. For example, at Adventist-Rideout in Marysville, acute hospital admissions are down approximately 40%.

In addition to the extraordinary efforts our residents have taken to maintain social distancing and flatten the curve, our region has worked with FEMA and the National Guard to proactively prepare for a worst-case scenario. The Enloe Rehabilitation Center has been outfitted with 125 field hospital beds and supplies to treat patients, if necessary. In the Yuba-Sutter area, approximately 350 surge beds have been identified locally through collaborative partnerships between public sectors and healthcare facilities.

At this point, given the COVID-19 numbers locally — and our enhanced healthcare capacity — we ask you to allow our counties to exercise local authority to implement a careful and phased reopening of our local economies.

We've asked a great deal of our residents in the past month, and they have risen to the challenge. Now we must move to the next phase, which is economic recovery. As you know, more than 3.4 million Californians have filed for unemployment over the past month. Some are predicting a statewide unemployment rate near 20% within the next month.

The public health stakes are high too. We know that prolonged recessions cause dire public health issues of their own. The indirect impacts of this virus can cause a higher risk of heart disease, acute sleep deprivation, depression, decreased response to vaccines and an increase in smoking and drinking alcohol.

We believe that the local public health data, in addition to our area's ability to continue monitoring cases, should allow our counties to soon begin a science-based, thoughtful reopening of our economy, consistent with national guidelines, which would allow our residents to get back to work.

We appreciate your consideration of our request to reopen the economies in our six counties under local orders, developed in concurrence with local county health officials.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.


Sincerely,



JAMES GALLAGHER  
Assemblyman, 3rd District



JIM NIELSEN  
Senator, 4th District



RON SULLENGER, CHAIR  
Sutter County Board of Supervisors



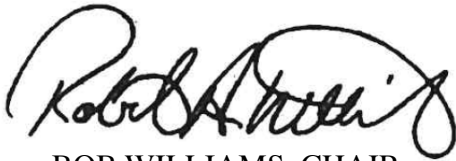
DOUG LOFTON, CHAIR  
Yuba County Board of Supervisors



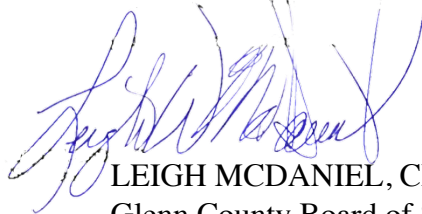
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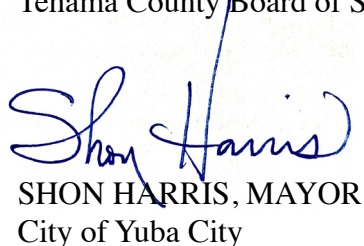
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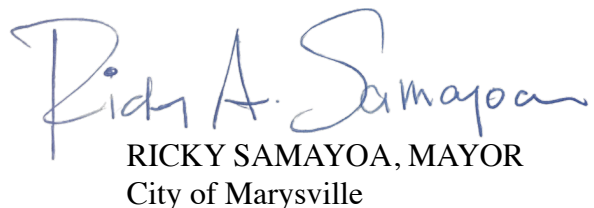
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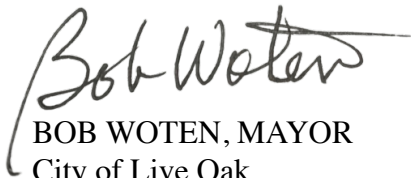
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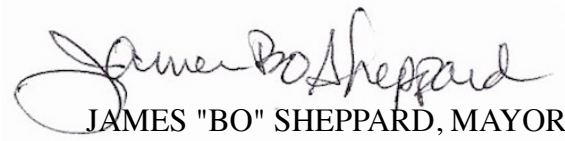
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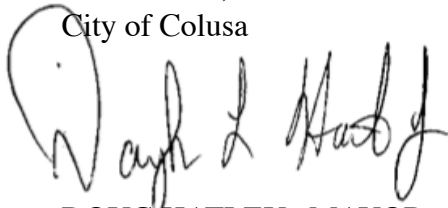
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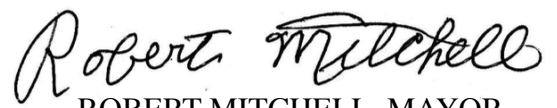
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