

May 1, 2020

Dear Monterey County Board of Supervisors:

The Coalition of Monterey County Chambers of Commerce thanks you for collaborating with Dr. Moreno, Health Officer of the County of Monterey, toward the development of public health orders that balance a reasonable degree of community health and safety with a reasonable degree of commercial and leisure activity. We understand the great philosophical and ethical dilemmas involved in such decisions.

We Support the New Health Order

We support the new public health order issued on May 1 that adds some restrictions but also allows additional commercial and leisure activities under a defined set of social distancing protocol. Our organizations are working to inform our members, the business community at large, and the general public about the conditions of this new public health order.

In working with local governments and community partners to ensure businesses can and do abide by the conditions of the new public health order, we recognize some challenges:

1. lack of availability and money to obtain protective equipment and infrastructure
2. lack of adequate testing for COVID-19
3. lack of clarity in understanding how the guidelines and standards affect specific businesses
4. competitive issues that may arise from competitors who do not comply

We Appreciate the County's Efforts Thus Far

We are pleased to see items on the May 5 Monterey County Board of Supervisors meeting agenda that display a systematic evaluation of impacts, proposals, actions, and directions. We appreciate that Supervisors have rearranged their schedules to focus on this crisis and ensure the public has a comprehensive understanding of what is happening.

We want to partner with the Supervisors and Monterey County to create a model for the state and nation to bring physical and economic healing to our region while keeping our communities safe, healthy and thriving. Already, the efforts of our Agricultural Commissioner could serve as such a model for how to resolve supply chain issues.

We Have Been Building a Broader Coalition to Bring Solutions

The Coalition of Monterey County Chambers of Commerce is part of a broader coalition of businesses and associations. We have been working with other local associations including MCHA, MCCVB, and others to address the challenges brought about by COVID-19.

We are developing a consolidated, thoughtful proposal of social distancing protocols that includes advice from qualified public health and safety experts in various industries. Upon completion and very soon, we will submit this to you.

We want to be cooperative partners in figuring out ways to reopen businesses while maintaining a high level of safety. We recognize it does not benefit the business community to have a surge in new cases and we want to be responsible and helpful in our quest to restore a greater degree of freedom and comfort in our community.

The leaders of our coalition are Paul Farmer (CEO, Salinas Valley Chamber) and Frank Geisler (CEO, Monterey Peninsula Chamber), who may be reached at President@SalinasChamber.com and Frank@MontereyChamber.com

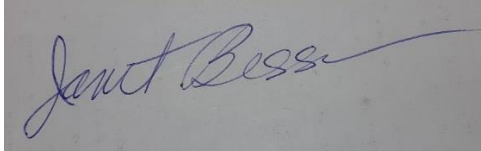
Sincerely,
Coalition of Monterey County Chambers of Commerce



Paul Farmer, President & CEO
Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce



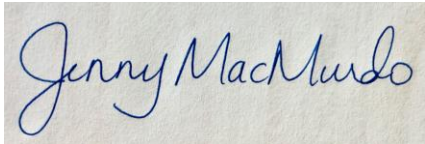
Frank Geisler, President & CEO
Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce



Janet Bessemer, Manager
King City Chamber of Commerce



Andria Brinson, President
Soledad Mission Chamber of Commerce



Jenny MacMurdo, President & CEO
Carmel Chamber of Commerce



Elizabeth Vitarisi Suro, Managing Director
Carmel Valley Chamber of Commerce



Moe Ammar, President
Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce

cc: Edward Moreno, MD, MPH, Health Officer and Bureau Chief; CAO Charles McKee