

Memorandum



Date: December 7, 2029
To: Chair Hart and Members of the Board of Supervisors
From: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer 
Subject: X-Agenda item for 12-8-20 Board Meeting:
Central Coast Region Request

Chair Hart and Supervisors:

On your agenda for December 8, 2020 is the regular COVID-19 update (Departmental Item #1). I am recommending that recommendation 1b be amended to reflect the following in order for the Board of Supervisors to consider a letter to the Governor regarding the Central Coast Region:

Current Recommendation 1b:

Provide any direction, as appropriate; and

Amended Recommendation 1b:

Provide any direction, as appropriate, including consideration of letter to Governor requesting the State allow Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties to exit the regional stay at home order as a Central Coast Region; and

A letter to the Governor is attached for your consideration.

Background

The State has placed Santa Barbara County in the Southern California Region for purposes of the Regional Stay At Home Order (RSAHO). Other counties in this region include Imperial, Inyo, Mono, San Luis Obispo, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Bernardino, and Riverside.

Reason for X-Agenda

The RSAHO became effective on Saturday, 12/5/20. Pursuant to the order, "for Regions where the adult ICU bed capacity falls below 15% after the effective date of this order, the Terms of this Order shall take effect 24 hours after that assessment." For Santa Barbara County, the terms became effective on Sunday evening at midnight, 12/6/20, after the State provided notification that the Southern California Region had met this threshold. These actions occurred subsequent to the Board Meeting Agenda being posted. There exists a need for immediate action to mitigate unnecessary economic hardship to our communities from the regional order.

DAS WILLIAMS

First District

GREGG HART

Second District, Chair

JOAN HARTMANN

Third District

PETER ADAM

Fourth District, Vice Chair

STEVE LAVAGNINO

Fifth District



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

December 8, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom

1303 10th Street, Suite 1173

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Santa Barbara County – Request for Central Coast Regional Consideration

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, I want to once again thank you and Dr. Erica Pan for your leadership during this unprecedented global pandemic and to request that Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties (Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Region 1A) be allowed to exit the regional stay at home order as a Central Coast Region after three weeks, if the ICU capacity in our three counties exceeds 15%.

As you stated at in your press conference of December 3, 2020 we must all work aggressively to blunt the surge of disease and bend the curve to protect the most vulnerable among us as well as our critical hospital ICU capacity. We too recognize this need and the gravity and importance of this moment. The County of Santa Barbara and our Central Coast regional partners, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties, have consistently modeled best practices in our strategies to collectively mitigate the spread of COVID 19, protect our shared constituencies and maintain critical hospital capacity. We are concerned that the high prevalence of disease in the large southern California counties will prevent our three counties from exiting the Regional Stay At Home Order (RSAHO). Being kept in the RSAHO any longer is unnecessary and will cause preventable educational and economic hardships to our communities. It also highly problematic to have us join the larger region when our communities have diligently complied with State and local health orders since the beginning of the pandemic.

We are therefore writing you today to urge your support of the Public Health Director's unified request for Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura County to exit the Regional Stay At Home Order as a Central Coast Region, after three weeks, if the ICU capacity in our three counties exceeds 15%.

The attached letter, signed by each county's Public Health Director and Officer, provides multiple examples of our history of partnership to prevent disease, protect health and promote health equity.

In addition to that referenced, at the onset of COVID19, our counties engaged in joint actions to serve our central coast constituencies through shared testing and lab resources, as well as alternative care site planning and mass communication. We are best positioned to understand the critical needs within our region and have existing partnerships to promote the health and economic well-being of our communities. This partnership, evolved over many decades, recognizes the symbiotic nature of our counties due to travel and the proximity of jobs to housing throughout the central coast, and is fostered daily in government, health care, business and academic settings. As noted in the in the Public Health Director's letter, working in partnership as a Central Coast Region, we can adeptly reset case rate, decrease testing positivity and continue to improve the ICU capacity which currently stands at greater than 15% among the hospitals in our three counties. As of December 4, the Central Coast Region's ICU capacity is 25.6%.

We urge you to approve the request to exit the Regional Stay and Home Order if our three counties exceed 15% ICU capacity after three weeks so that we can continue to aggressively address COVID 19 impacts and avoid further and preventable economic and educational hardships. Allowing this change will not have a significant impact on the ICU availability rates of the remaining counties in the Southern California Region, given their much larger size and populations; yet it will have a tremendous impact on the Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo communities. This change would neither affect our continued commitment to assist other counties in the Southern California region or elsewhere during this critical time.

Thank you again for your leadership and for your consideration of this request. We will continue to work aggressively on mitigating the pandemic and its impact on our communities with our partners in the Central Coast and the State.

Sincerely,

Gregg Hart,
Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara

Encl: Letter from Public Health Officials

Cc:
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Ventura County Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors
California State Senator Monique Limon
California State Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham
California State Assemblymember Steve Bennett