



DATE: December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

FROM: Mayor Ryan Toussaint,  
City of Solvang  
[toussaint.ryan@cityofsolvang.com](mailto:toussaint.ryan@cityofsolvang.com)  
1644 Oak St,  
Solvang, CA 93436

TO: County Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
[cao@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:cao@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)

CC:

Solvang Sheriff's Department; Sheriff Bill Brown and City of Solvang Police Chief Jeff Green  
Solvang Chamber of Commerce; Tracy Beard  
City of Buellton; Mayor Holly Sierra and City Manager, Scott Wolfe  
County Executive Officer; Mona Miyasato

Dear Chairman Hart and County Supervisors,

On December 7, 2020, the Solvang City Council added an Emergency Item onto our agenda in relation to the recent state shutdown orders and in consideration of any potential actions the County Board of Supervisors may be taking today.

Significant concerns about the latest round of business shutdowns were expressed by residents, business representatives and our Council. The community of Solvang has done a great job at being mindful, safe and responsible while keeping our local economy going during these challenging times. The current order by the State is ill-conceived, unnecessary and quite frankly negligent when it comes to protecting our community in a safe, balanced and sane manner.

**We would like to make you aware of the unanimous action of our Council to avoid this new round of business shutdowns:**

Motions made by the Mayor and passed 5-0 by, Mayor Toussaint and councilmembers: Karen Waite, Robert Clarke, Daniel Johnson, and newly elected Jim Thomas (replacing Chris Djernaes in the recent recall election):

- Authorize the Mayor to send a (this) letter to the County Board of Supervisors strongly urging the creation of a new Central Coast Region consisting of Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties, separate from the current regional map lumping us in with the 20 million people in Southern California pushed in the new State order.



- Direct Staff and City resources to immediately pursue maintaining the status quo of safe, open outdoor dining and other current business practices which have allowed our community to have some level of normalcy, while also maintaining very low COVID infection numbers. Our businesses and community have done a great job keeping our numbers low. We also directed staff to find out what “stay open” measures other cities are doing that we can also implement to save our local businesses and economy quickly and efficiently.
- Create an ad-hoc committee to work with other state and local officials and organizations to maintain our current economy.
- Authorize budget adjustment of \$10,000 for immediate extra expenses in relation to these actions and maintaining public safety.
- The City will not be actively enforcing County and State shutdown orders, we also request the County to prioritize education and do NO enforcement within the City limits.

Solvang is a Charter City, with a very active community base and a nimble and responsive City government led by a dedicated City Council and staff. The City is also unique in that nearly all businesses are small and locally owned, and with a great dependence on tourism. Even before the March 19<sup>th</sup> Executive Orders, the City was active in efforts to first contain the potential spread of COVID, then to mitigate the effects on the community, while constantly planning for economic recovery.

We are asking the County to move as quickly as possible to remove our County from yet another California “one size fits all” mistake, which will destroy our community.

We appreciate your consideration and understanding of our position.

Respectfully,

Mayor Ryan Toussaint  
and Solvang City Council Members