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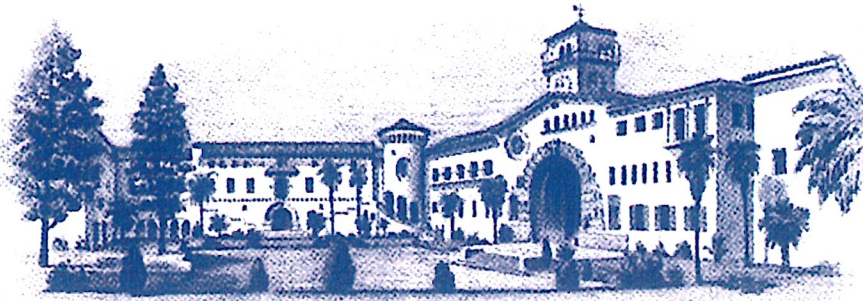
Third District

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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 COIVD19, 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 Heath 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% and as of December 7, 32% capacity remaining.

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 COIVD 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



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT



December 7, 2020

Dear Dr. Pan,

We would like to begin by thanking you for your leadership and dedication during this unprecedented global pandemic.

As Health Officers and Public Health Directors, we are writing today to ask for your consideration in allowing San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura County to exit the Regional Stay At Home Order (RSAHO) after three weeks, if the ICU capacity in our three counties exceeds 15% and is expected to stay on that course based on the four-week ICU bed capacity projection to be done biweekly by your Department.

We anticipate that as a Central Coast Coalition (CCC), we will be able to exit the RSAHO much sooner than as members of the Southern CA region. Our ICU capacity currently exceeds 15%, as you can see from the chart below. We are concerned that the high prevalence of disease in the large southern California counties will prevent our three counties from exiting the RSAHO.

We understand the concerns at the State level due to the unprecedented rise in case counts and impacts in many geographic areas on the general acute care hospital system in California and elsewhere. Therefore, we agree with the addition of a hospital-based metric to the considerations for non-pharmaceutical intervention (NPI). As you know, Dr. Borenstein has asked for just such action over many weeks as we all moved into the Blueprint for a Safer Economy as the schema for NPI determinations. Yet we believe that the utilization of such a large and diverse regional assignment is not reflective of the risks for our Central Coast area.

Our contiguous region of CCC counties has a long and deep history of collaboration and partnership to prevent disease, protect health in our region, and promote health equity. Below is just a highlight of some of our joint efforts over the past one to two decades:

- Regional laboratory response network (LRN)
- Covered California enrollment
- Every Woman Counts Cancer Detection Program
- Gold Coast Collaborative for Obesity Prevention
- Joint grant to address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)
- Farmworkers Health initiatives
- Tri-County Regional Tobacco Team

Unlike the rest of the Southern California regional boundaries being utilized for COVID-19 mitigation, we strongly anticipate that the three weeks in RSAHO will allow us to rapidly reset our case rates and testing

positivity, and further improve our ICU capacity. Our COVID-19 metrics (case rates and test positivity) and mitigation efforts (community outreach and education, testing and other efforts) among our three counties are similar, and our metrics are lower than the majority of the counties in the current region. We expect that continued and expanded collective efforts will improve our metrics sooner than if we are to remain in the larger region. Also, our Central Coast region has access to an alternate care site which has remained in warm status since April 2020, on the campus of Cal Poly, with an immediate 165-bed census (sufficient beds, oxygen concentrators, IV support, and PPE are in place) and the option to rapidly scale up to 900 beds with staff support. We will of course continue to partner with and assist other counties in the current Southern California region, but strongly feel that for our tri-county region, having our own region is in the best interest for our residents.

Therefore, we request that our long-standing CCC tri-county region, which is geographically, demographically, and functionally distinct from the rest of the Southern California region be allowed to exit the RSAHO as a separate region. Being kept in the RSAHO any longer is unnecessary and will cause preventable educational and economic hardships to our communities.

In closing, we respectfully request that our three counties be allowed to exit the current RSAHO when we meet the criteria because we have the capacity and the partnership to mitigate COVID-19 in our Central Coast Region, as well as to maintain our ICU capacity at the requested level.

In partnership,

San Luis Obispo County: Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH, Health Officer/Public Health Director



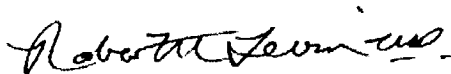
Santa Barbara County: Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD, Public Health Director



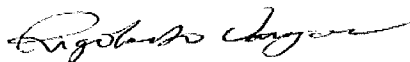
Santa Barbara County: Ansorg Henning, MD, Health Officer

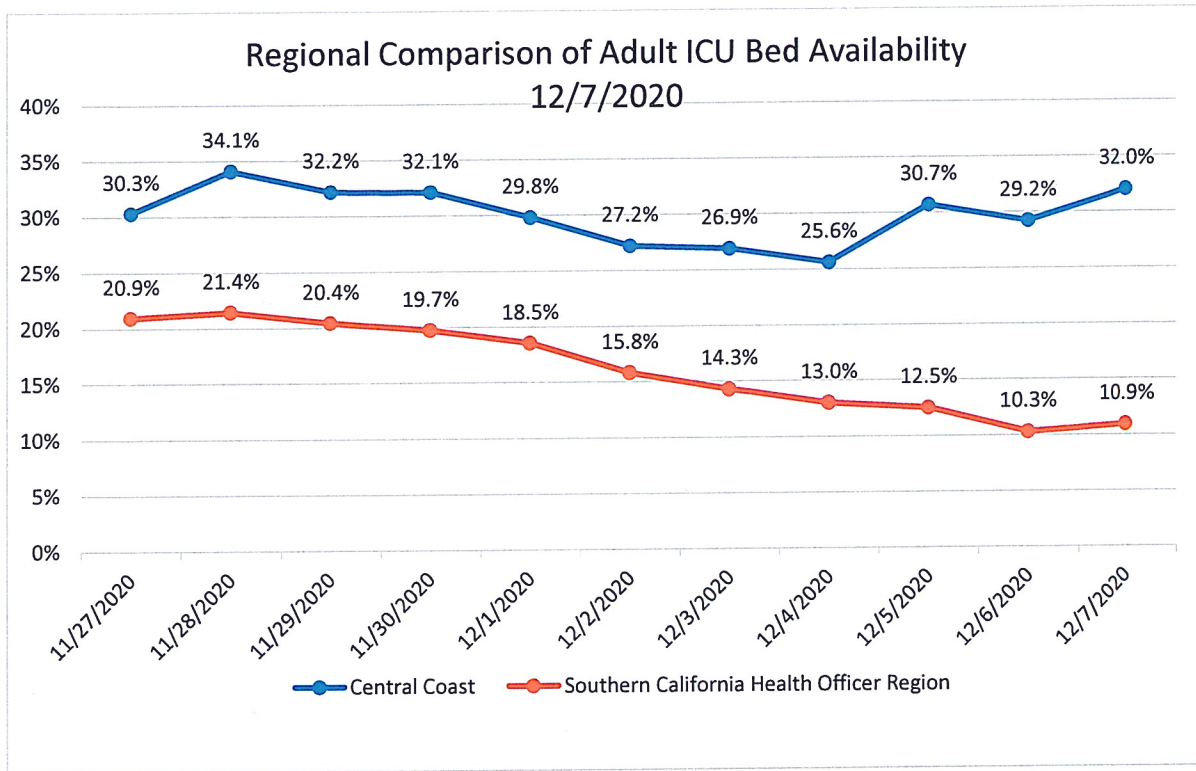


Ventura County: Robert Levin, MD, Health Officer



Ventura County: Rigoberto Vargas, MPH, Public Health Director





CC:

- San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
- San Luis Obispo County, County Administrative Officer
- Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
- Santa Barbara County Chief Executive Officer
- Ventura County Board of Supervisors
- Ventura County Chief Executive Officer
- Central Coast Region Elected State Representatives
- Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH, Secretary, CA Health & Human Services Agency