

To:

The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom
State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor,

I am writing you as a member of the community that is deeply concerned about my neighbors. In Riverside County we are seeing serious financial distress everywhere we look. We need help!

We in Riverside County have worked hard to fight the COVID-19 virus. We wear our mask, we maintain social distance, most of our community is doing the right thing when we conduct business. And yet, while large, big box stores have been allowed to operate with minimal restrictions, our small businesses are not being allowed to open their doors, not even with reduced capacity!

Our County is a working-class community. For most of us, the “step up” is owning our own business or working for ourselves. It is very difficult when you look around and see that most everything that is open are the entry level jobs many of us have worked so hard to better ourselves from. Our family owned restaurants are closed. Our small business boutiques are shuttered. Large portions of our service industry are banned.

When will the State allow for an equitable plan that does not favor just the large corporations?

While we appreciate the efforts that must have gone into the color-coded system you enacted on August 28th, it has put our County in a very difficult economy. I am asking that you allow the County to execute the reopening plan set before you on Aug. 12th in a letter to state public health officials from our Riverside County Supervisors sent by County Executive Officer George Johnson. That letter proposed a three-phase plan that builds on steps the county has taken to fight the spread of COVID-19.

Starting Sept. 8, dine-in restaurants, wineries, and breweries; places of worship; non-essential indoor offices; and “personal care businesses” like nail salons and tattoo shops, would be allowed to reopen in accordance with state COVID-19 guidelines.

Starting Sept. 22, wedding receptions, group meetings and events, and indoor shopping malls would be allowed to open.

Starting Oct. 6, gyms, movie theaters, and bars would be allowed to open.

Health metrics would be measured to see if it is safe to move forward with each reopening phase. The plan was thoughtful, concise, and applicable to our specific region and circumstances.

I believe our local health professionals and elected leaders have a firm grasp of what is happening within our community and are best equipped to make decisions that impact me. Please support their plan.