



March 19, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Construction, Development and Business Industry Position on “Essential Business”

Dear Governor Newsom:

We would first like to express our appreciation at the steps your administration is taking to protect human health and safety in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a trying time, and we acknowledge and appreciate the work being done by you and your team.

The Public Health Departments of several California counties have issued shelter at home orders over the past several days which specify certain “essential business” operations that may be allowed to continue. Some of these orders have contained language that is specific; other counties have issued directives that are somewhat vague.

Our collective membership depends upon a workforce that encompasses geographic regions, rather than from within individual counties. Continuity of essential services is muddled conflicting orders/directives from local governments.

We acknowledge social distancing is required to stem the spread of the coronavirus. Most construction and development operations can proceed while adhering to CDC recommendations to prevent spread of the coronavirus.

Our coalition urges your favorable consideration of the following language, so that **essential construction and development services necessary** to provide for the health and well-being of California citizens and the California economy remain uninterrupted.

We wish for orders and directives to be modified (or included when issued) to reflect this language:

*For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence to provide any services or perform any work necessary to the operations and maintenance of “Essential Infrastructure,” including, but not limited to, construction (including business that supply raw materials, building products, components, pre-assembled systems, racking and support structures integral to construction), airport operations, water, sewer, flood control, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection, processing and removal, internet, telecommunications systems (including the provision of*

*essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), and the permitting, inspection, construction, transfer and recording of ownership, of housing, property and anything incidental thereto, provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements as defined in this Section, to the extent possible.*

This language is similar to the language contained in the order issued March 19, 2020 by the County of Sacramento Health Officer. It ensures essential activities and services may continue to be performed for the welfare of California's citizenry and economy.

Should you have any questions, please contact members of our coalition directly. We look forward to collectively working with your office as issues regarding the coronavirus evolve.

Sincerely,

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