



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Solvang, California Responds to California's Regional Stay at Home Order; Sends Letter to Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Urging Creation of a New Central Coast Region

Solvang, CA – The City Council of the City of Solvang, California (www.CityofSolvang.com) held an Emergency Council Meeting on Monday, December 7, 2020, during which a motion made by Solvang Mayor Ryan Toussaint passed unanimously, with a 5-0 Council vote. The motion, which relates to the recent State of California shutdown orders and the proposed actions by Santa Barbara County government as pertain to the State orders, includes the following actions:

- Authorization for the Mayor to send a 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 grouping these Counties with the 20 million people in Southern California which were pushed in the new State order.
- Direct City Staff and 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-19 numbers. As part of this, City Staff will evaluate the "stay open" measures which other cities are taking to save their local businesses and economy, in a responsive and efficient manner.
- City will create an ad hoc committee to work with Solvang City Manager Xenia Bradford, other State and local officials, and organizations, to maintain our current economy. Mayor Toussaint suggested that he, and City Councilmember Jim Thomas, be appointed to that ad hoc committee.
- Authorization for City Manager Xenia Bradford to immediately adjust budget by \$10,000 to cover extra expenses as relate to these actions and to maintaining public safety, and to return with additional budget adjustment recommendations as needed.
- The statement that the City of Solvang will *not* actively enforce County and State orders, and that the City requests the County to prioritize education and that they also *not* enforce the orders within the City limits.

In a letter from Solvang Mayor Ryan Toussaint and the Solvang City Council to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, dated December 7, 2020, regarding the impetus for sending said letter, the Mayor explains the City's stance with a paragraph reading:

"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."

The letter states the motion's bullet points, as listed above, and goes on to relate that "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 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."

The letter concludes with a statement that the City of Solvang is asking the County to move as quickly as possible to remove Santa Barbara County from “yet another California ‘one size fits all’ mistake, which will destroy our community.”

The City of Solvang continues to urge residents and businesses to regularly monitor the County of Santa Barbara Department of Public Health’s COVID-19 Public Information Portal, which is updated on a daily basis: publichealthsb.org.

Please contact Anna Ferguson-Sparks at media@cityofsolvang.com with any questions about the information contained within this press release. All health-related questions should be directed to your healthcare provider, or the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (publichealthsb.org).

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