



April 28, 2020

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**Delivered Via Email**

**Re: Construction, Development and Business in Future Shelter-in-Place Orders**

Dear Drs. Cody, Pan, Farnitano, Willis, Aragón, Morrow, and Hernandez:

On behalf of the Sacramento Regional Builders Exchange (SRBX), we would first like to express our appreciation on the steps that your offices have taken to protect human health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. These are challenging and unprecedented times, and we acknowledge and appreciate the work being done by each of your county departments, which have saved lives. As California begins to build toward finding a “new normal,” we write to urge you to allow construction projects to resume under future Shelter-in-Place orders.

Since March 19, when Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 (EO), our organization has been working with the governor’s office, state legislators and representatives from counties and cities across California to address safety concerns and promote safe and healthy workplaces for all construction employees and the communities that they operate in.

Perhaps no industry is as prepared and capable of implementing new health and safety rules than the construction sector - for both residential and commercial projects. Construction companies have safely operated throughout the state, adopting and implementing enhanced safety protocols, adhering CDC guidelines and obeying all directives issued by state, county and city or federal authorities.

Given the precautions already in place, the construction sector is uniquely situated to safely restart the regional economy, continue to lend itself to the state economy and address critical infrastructural needs, while putting thousands of people back to work with standardized, effective, and enforceable social distancing methods in place. We acknowledge social distancing is required to stem the spread of the coronavirus. The industry is not only prepared to hold itself accountable but welcomes the supervision of the public and health officials. The social distancing rules will be enforced by supervisors, building inspectors and potentially by occasional visits by local law enforcement.

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 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 state order and most counties throughout the state and provides clear uniformity, parity and alignment. 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 feel free to contact me directly. We look forward to working with each of your offices as issues regarding the coronavirus evolve.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy A. Murphy', written in a cursive style.

Timothy A. Murphy  
Chief Executive Officer  
Sacramento Regional Builders Exchange