

Honorable Mayor and Council,

Earlier this week the Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Tri-County Chamber Alliance, submitted a petition of over 4,700 signatures from business leaders, workers and residents of the Central Coast to Governor Newsom's office requesting his office direct public health leadership to evaluate Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties on the data specific to our region. Thereby recognizing our region is distinct and unique from the rest of the current Southern California region, deserving of distinct consideration at the end of the initial three-week Regional Stay at Home Order. Collectively, we represent tens of thousands of employers and well over a hundred thousand jobs.

Frankly, we believe that requiring us to wait for the rest of the Southern California region to meet that standard will cause undo harm. Our businesses, and the employees and communities they sustain, will needlessly spend extra weeks of being shut down, when the local hospital capacity does not necessitate it. Many may not survive; our small businesses being most drastically impacted.

Since local municipalities cannot supersede directives handed down from County and State, it is imperative we come together to further this message as a united voice – we are stronger together. As evidenced over the past week, disregarding guidance could result in hefty fines and potential loss of operating permits for our local restaurants. Our hands may be tied but our voices are not, we urge Council to utilize any resource available to further this messaging to the State and County level. Santa Barbara County, combined with Ventura and San Luis Obispo County, must be separated from the Southern California Region, there is simply no other option to sustain our small businesses, economy, and workforce.

Thank you
Amber Wilson
President/CEO
Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce