



KELLY HONIG
Mayor

SUSAN McSWEENEY
Mayor Pro Tem

BRAD HALPERN
Councilmember

RAY PEARL
Councilmember

NED E DAVIS
Councilmember

May 15, 2020

The Honorable Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor, Third District
County of Los Angeles
821 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Kuehl:

As the Mayor of the City of Westlake Village, I am writing to request your assistance in seeking modification of the current Safer at Home order as applicable to our city. Given the large size of Los Angeles County and the drastically differing health data from individual communities within the 500 square miles of the County, it is appropriate to consider facilitating modified Safer at Home orders and variances for select jurisdictions.

As of May 14, 2020, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reported 35,329 cases of COVID-19 throughout the County. Unfortunately, Los Angeles County continues to be a critical epicenter for the COVID-19 virus. However, the City of Westlake Village has experienced six (6) cases; a number that has remained unchanged over the past month. This represents 0.0001 of all cases reported in Los Angeles County.

Clearly, not all communities within Los Angeles County are experiencing COVID-19 in the same way. As you know, the City of Westlake Village is the western-most municipality in Los Angeles County and shares a border with Ventura County and the City of Thousand Oaks. The differing Safer at Home orders existing between Los Angeles and adjacent Ventura County are extremely frustrating for our residents and business owners, given that residents cross these boundaries multiple times per day. Similar businesses and recreational facilities are literally across the street from each other but subject to entirely different rules, even though infection rates in the cities of Westlake Village and Thousand Oaks are similar.

Upon the declaration of the local COVID-19 emergency, the City of Westlake Village embarked on an aggressive campaign to educate our residents on how they can best remain safe and healthy. As is the case in all other communities, the Safer at Home orders necessitated the closure of many local businesses. In partnership with you and other key stakeholders, we have worked with our residents and businesses to access financial resources to assist them during these uncertain times. While our residents have been extremely successful in minimizing the spread of COVID-19, the economic devastation is tremendous and mounting.

Given that Los Angeles County will be enduring a slower recovery than other California counties, it is appropriate to consider dividing the County into smaller units for purposes of modifying the Safer at Home orders. Possible approaches could include providing variances on a municipal basis or through groupings of cities, like the existing nine sub-regions of Los Angeles County. We are confident that safely reopening select communities throughout Los Angeles County with lower and flat COVID-19 cases will facilitate an expedited regional economic recovery benefiting our residents, businesses, government, and the County as a whole. As of May 15, twenty-one counties have successfully secured a regional variance through attainment of critical health milestones.

We greatly appreciate the hard work and leadership of the Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health during this crisis. Your unwavering commitment to the health of all residents in Los Angeles County is to be commended.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss our city's position with you in greater detail and would like to schedule a virtual meeting with you at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly B. Honig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelly Honig
Mayor

CC: Members of the City Council
U.S. Representative Julia Brownley
Members of the Board of Supervisors
Senator Henry Stern
Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin
Terry Dipple, LVMCOG
Jeff Kiernan, League of California Cities