



July 23, 2020

Ms. Marissa Trejo
City Manager
City of Coalinga
155 West Durian
Coalinga, CA 93210
mtrejo@coalinga.com

Dear Ms. Trejo:

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist statewide due to the threat of COVID-19. Since that time, COVID-19 has spread throughout California, requiring further action to protect the public health and safety. On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20, which incorporated the State Public Health Officer's Stay-at-Home Order. This Order continues to apply statewide and remains necessary for the preservation of public health and safety. On May 4, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order N-60-20. The Order allows local jurisdictions to take measured and meaningful steps to modify public health directives where public health data supports such a decision.

All of these actions were, and remain, necessary to preserve public health and safety. Fresno County is no exception, as it has been on the county monitoring list for 45 days with elevated disease transmission within the community and a test positivity rate of 11.3%. Additionally, hospitalizations in the county continue to increase. COVID-19 does not stop at administrative boundaries and one community's failure to follow public health orders will negatively impact other communities.

The State of California is providing and distributing financial support to assist local governments in responding to the impacts of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. This funding is conditioned on the jurisdiction's adherence to federal guidance and the state's stay-at-home requirements and other health requirements as directed in gubernatorial Executive Order N-33-20, subsequent executive orders or statutes, and all State Department of Public Health orders, directives, and guidance issued in response to the COVID-19 public health

emergency.¹ Local governments must certify compliance to the Department of Finance when they apply for this funding. In the certification, the jurisdiction must affirm it has not enacted any ordinances or resolutions that are inconsistent with the state's stay-at-home order. This is necessary to ensure that all jurisdictions are adhering to public health directives and ensure for the protection of public health and safety.

As you are aware, on May 7, 2020, the City of Coalinga passed Resolution number 3964, declaring businesses in Coalinga to be essential businesses. This is inconsistent with the state's public health directives, threatens the public health and safety of the City of Coalinga's residents, and renders the City ineligible for up to \$212,358 in state assistance in accordance with the FY 20-21 State Budget Act.

I understand Coalinga Mayor, Ron Lander, issued a letter on May 26, 2020, to the Coalinga community explaining that the aforementioned Resolution was intended to serve as interim guidelines until Fresno County went through the formal attestation process with the California Department of Public Health. However, while the county's attestation has been submitted and accepted, the Resolution the City Council remains in place.

It is our goal to ensure that every eligible jurisdiction in California, including the City of Coalinga, receives this funding. In order to be eligible for funding, assuming it meets the other prescribed criteria, the City would need to rescind this resolution. I ask that you please advise once the City has formally rescinded this Resolution and has moved forward to expeditiously implement and enforce state public health guidelines. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,

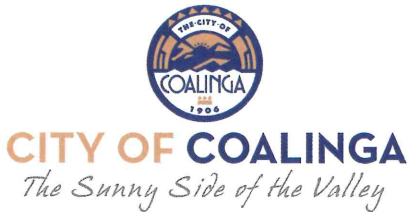


MARK S. GHILARDUCCI
Director

Enclosure: Letter from Mayor Ron Lander dated May 26, 2020

cc: Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula
Senator Anna Caballero
Representative T.J. Cox

¹ http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB89



May 26, 2020

Dear Coalinga Community,

As you know, on Thursday, May 7, 2020, during a regularly scheduled City Council meeting, the Coalinga City Council adopted Resolution No. 3964 Declaring all Businesses in the City as Essential Businesses.

Businesses within the City of Coalinga that were deemed non-essential by the State began reopening on May 11, 2020, at the business owner's discretion, by following safety guidelines established by the City's Safety Officer.

The City guidelines were established in order to allow these businesses to reopen, though they could still face enforcement and punitive action by the State and County Agencies.

Now that Fresno County's attestation has been approved by the State and businesses in Fresno County can begin reopening under County guidelines, businesses should follow those County guidelines in order to be in compliance with State and County orders.

The City's guidelines were intended to serve during an interim period when County guidelines were not yet available.

If businesses are operating under County guidelines, that is all that is needed. The City is not imposing any additional guidelines upon our businesses.

Currently, within the Coalinga community, there are 12 positive COVID-19 cases and I encourage each of you to stay informed as to the number of confirmed cases in our community.

For specific information regarding the number of confirmed cases by community, please refer to the Fresno County Department of Public Health's website at https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/public-health/covid-19?fbclid=IwAR1RiIy6hbmKqHyqoiNjCw7Mv8DNfbf_BqMI5iQ9P3DsPOm0_vst_wWKvIQ and click County Epidemiology Program Information Portal.

City Hall generally remains closed, but citizens are permitted into the lobby and conference room by scheduling an appointment with the appropriate staff members. We are continuing to provide essential services and we are now providing pool and solar permits. City staff remains available to assist the community and our no-contact services will also remain in place. Members of the public may contact City staff by calling (559) 935-1533 or by emailing info@coalinga.com.

I encourage all community members to like the official City of Coalinga Facebook page as we continue to post one-way communication informing the community on important matters.

Please continue to avoid large gatherings and help stop the spread of COVID-19 by remaining home if you are sick, washing your hands regularly, avoiding touching your face, and consulting with your doctor if you feel ill.

As we know, the communities around us, particularly Huron and Avenal, have a higher number of positive COVID-19 cases than we have in Coalinga. Please be careful while you are out in public. Take precautions to help keep yourself safe and minimize your risk at coming into contact with someone with the virus. Remember, some people are asymptomatic.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron Lander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, prominent "L" and "R".

Ron Lander, Mayor