



GREATER SACRAMENTO
ECONOMIC COUNCIL



March 30, 2020

To our Local Government Partners:

On behalf of our construction and business coalition, please find attached a letter we transmitted to Governor Gavin Newsom.

In this letter, we outline the safety steps we are communicating to construction companies within the Greater Sacramento Region. Our coalition is working together to share resources, information and best practices to ensure the men and women working in the construction industry are working safely and smartly.

Thank you for the measures you are all taking to keep the construction industry working during this time.

Sincerely,

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March 27, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

The COVID-19 outbreak has had a significant impact on all Californians, with the long-term effects on the economy having yet to be estimated or realized. Construction is one of the most vital components of continuing to move the state forward. Our Coalition represents essential construction businesses that employ hundreds of thousands of workers from across California. The construction coalition appreciates your ongoing support of our industry.

Our members are committed to the health, safety and welfare of our workforce and the public. Safety has always been and continues to be our top priority while we build a better California. Our members are implementing strict measures for the safety of their workforce during these times, including significantly enhanced and modified safety and stop work plans to effectively mitigate the risk for workers. We are construction safety subject matter experts and remain committed to be your top resource for industry safety standards through this pandemic. We are all in this together.

We are continuously helping our memberships evaluate the risks and exposures on the job site. To ensure projects are delivered in the safest method possible, here are some of the procedures that we are helping our members implement:

- Encouraging all jobsites to have a COVID-19 Compliance Officer to ensure compliance with the CDC, OSHA and State Order Health guidelines.
- Conducting COVID-19 safety talks and daily personal health reminders
- Banning visitors to a jobsite unless the visit is purpose driven to control unnecessary quantities of people on a jobsite.
- Developing new work techniques that do not allow workers to work over or under each other
- Maximizing technology for communication purposes to reduce onsite people and jobsite traffic
- Limiting the number of employees riding hoists
- Providing hand sanitizer and additional portable hand washing stations

- Maintaining 6 to 10 feet of space between workers.
- Moving all jobsite meetings from the trailer to open air meetings
- Purchasing additional tools to ease sharing where possible and disinfecting shared tools multiple times throughout the day
- Staggering crew arrival/departure times to prevent all workers showing up at the jobsite at the same time
- Utilizing a “Fit for Duty” protocol
- Encouraging workers to change clothes prior to arriving home and wash work clothes in hot water and sanitizer.
- Proper care and use of personal protective equipment (respirators, gloves, eye, and face protection)
- Encouraging site disinfection schedules to happen throughout the day to reduce exposure through surface contact.

The work performed by these frontline men and women is not only helping to ease a negative impact on public health but is also helping to create a better quality of life for all our residents.

As you know, halting or implementing any limitation on the construction industry at this time will only result in worker layoffs that will make it extremely difficult for construction companies to meet the demand to maintain existing healthcare facilities, build new ones, retrofit existing structures (such as dorms, hotels and ships) for emergency use and create the millions of homes that are needed across the state to address the housing crisis. They won’t be able to modify manufacturing facilities to meet an increased demand for medical supplies or provide new transportation corridors for people and materials. Moreover, such a hit to the construction industry workforce will undermine current and future efforts to recover the economy.

The industry is adapting, evolving and dealing with the virus in a responsible and practical manner. We’ve already taken proactive steps to decrease human density on sites and implement best practices. We are self-regulating with high standards and making it clear that if people are concerned for themselves or their family members who have underlying health conditions, they are encouraged to stay home. Let’s allow those that want to work safely and support their families and community keep working while providing much-needed economic development for our state.

Thank you in advance for your continued efforts to help slow the spread of the coronavirus in our community. If our coalition can be of service in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

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