



July 23, 2020

Ms. Marissa Trejo  
City Manager  
City of Coalinga  
155 West Durian  
Coalinga, CA 93210  
[mtrejo@coalinga.com](mailto: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.<sup>1</sup> 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark S. Ghilarducci', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

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<sup>1</sup> [http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200AB89](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB89)