



CITY OF ANAHEIM
MAYOR HARRY S. SIDHU, P.E.
AT LARGE



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

Steven R. Jones
Mayor



September 24, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit our communities hard, much like the rest of the California. However, as the rest of the country begins to open up, the economic engines of the tourism industry here in Orange County remain closed. There are 300,000 people out of work across the County, countless businesses remain closed, some probably for good, and our cities see debt mounting by the millions every week. We are at our breaking point and need your help.

The path forward in our region includes opening theme parks, which are the largest employers and tax generators in our cities. And we agree with you that they can only reopen when it is safe, according to reasonable guidelines based on science and best healthcare practices.

To help you establish these guidelines, we cordially invite you to Orange County to see for yourself the ability we believe our theme parks have to implement top of the line health and safety protocols. Many of these are already in place at Downtown Disney, the shopping and dining district adjacent to Disneyland, and at Disney theme parks around the globe that have already reopened. Similarly, excellent health and safety protocols are in place at theme parks around the nation operated by Cedar Fair. There have been no COVID-19 outbreaks traced back to any of the 20 major theme parks that have been allowed to re-open elsewhere in the nation.

You will also be able to see the massive harm the closures of these venues have caused for small business, workers, and our cities' fiscal health. Let us be clear, the closure orders at the outset of the pandemic were necessary. We praised your early leadership during this crisis and believe you saved tens of thousands of lives. Now, you can lead again by showing we have learned our lessons, know how to restart our economy safely, and start the recovery.

Governor, we don't have time to waste. We are on the cusp of harm that will take decades to recover, and possibly do more harm over the years than the virus itself.

Again, we are asking you to come see firsthand, the health and safety protocols we have implemented. We hope to greet you in Orange County soon and thank you for your continued leadership.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Harry Sidhu in blue ink.

Harry Sidhu
Mayor, City of Anaheim

Handwritten signature of Steve Jones in black ink.

Steve Jones
Mayor, City of Garden Grove

Handwritten signature of Fred Smith in black ink.

Fred Smith
Mayor, City of Buena Park