



# CITY OF MORRO BAY CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

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The City of Morro Bay provides essential public services and infrastructure to maintain a safe, clean and healthy place for residents and visitors to live, work and play.

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## NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

**Wednesday, December 16, 2020 – 4:30 P.M.  
Held Via Teleconference**

### ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

### PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order N-29-20, issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, this Meeting will be conducted telephonically through Zoom and broadcast live on Cable Channel 20 and streamed on the City website (click [here](#) to view). Please be advised that pursuant to the Executive Order, and to ensure the health and safety of the public by limiting human contact that could spread the COVID-19 virus, the Veterans' Hall will not be open for the meeting.

#### Public Participation:

In order to prevent and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and limit potential spread within the City of Morro Bay, in accordance with Executive Order N-29-20, the City will not make available a physical location from which members of the public may observe the meeting and offer public comment. Remote public participation is allowed in the following ways:

- Community members are encouraged to submit agenda correspondence in advance of the meeting via email to the City Clerk's office at [cityclerk@morrobayca.gov](mailto:cityclerk@morrobayca.gov) prior to the meeting and will be published on the City website with a final update one hour prior to the meeting start time. Agenda correspondence received less than an hour before the meeting start time may not be posted until after the meeting.
- Members of the public may watch the meeting either on cable Channel 20 or as streamed on the City [website](#).
- Alternatively, members of the public may watch the meeting and speak on a specific agenda item by logging in to the Zoom webinar at the **beginning** of the meeting using the information provided below. Please use the **"raise hand"** feature to indicate your desire to provide public comment. Each speaker will be allowed three minutes to provide input.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82722747698?pwd=aWZpTzcwTHlRTk9xaTlmWVNWRFWFUQT09>  
Password: 135692

- Or Telephone Attendee: 1 (408) 638-0968 or 1 (669) 900 6833 or 1 (346) 248 7799;  
Webinar ID: 827 2274 7698; Password: 135692; Press \*9 to **"Raise Hand"** for Public Comment

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

- I. RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON COVID-19 AND ADVOCACY IN SUPPORT FOR A TRI-COUNTY CENTRAL COAST REGION FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S REGIONAL STAY AT HOME ORDER; (CITY MANAGER)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the City Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter on behalf of the City supporting the autonomy of a Central Coast region consisting of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties, who request that their COVID-19 metrics be considered separately from the Southern California region.

ADJOURNMENT

DATED: December 15, 2020



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John Headding, Mayor

**IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A CITY MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT LEAST 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING TO INSURE REASONABLE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBILITY TO THE MEETING.**



**AGENDA NO:** I  
**MEETING DATE:** December 16, 2020

# Staff Report

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council **DATE:** December 15, 2020  
**FROM:** Scott Collins, City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Receive an Update on COVID-19 and Advocacy in Support for a Tri-County Central Coast Region for the State of California’s Regional Stay at Home Order

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the City Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter on behalf of the City supporting the autonomy of a Central Coast region consisting of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties, who request that their COVID-19 metrics be considered separately from the Southern California Region.

### ALTERNATIVES

City Council could choose to not authorize the Mayor to send a letter or provide other direction.

### FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact related to the recommendation.

### BACKGROUND

Given the steady rise of COVID-19 cases and related deaths statewide, Governor Newsome issued a new Regional Stay at Home order (RSAHO). The new RSAHO created five mega regions statewide, whereby greater restrictions are triggered for any region that has its Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity reach 15% or less. SLO County is grouped in with the Southern California region, which as a total, has about 2.7% ICU capacity. By comparison, SLO County standalone has 48% ICU capacity.

Attached are letters from the Ventura County, Santa Barbara County and San Luis Obispo County Public Health Officers to the State of California requesting consideration of allowing said counties to exit the Regional Stay at Home order (RSAHO) after three weeks as a new Central Coast Region, if the Intensive Care Unit capacity in those three counties exceeds 15% and is expected to stay on that course based on the four-week ICU bed capacity projection to be done biweekly by the State. The justification is based on the three counties being contiguous and having a history of collaboration and partnership related to public health pursuits. By lumping the Central Coast counties into the Southern California region in the latest RSAHO, many segments of our local economy, including restaurants, bars, gyms, hair salons, barber shops, and personal care businesses have been significantly impacted, despite our hospitals having ICU capacity. SLO County Board of Supervisors authorized the Board Chair to send a similar letter which is attached.

**Prepared By:** \_\_SC\_\_\_\_ **Dept Review:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City Manager Review:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City Attorney Review:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter in support of the Tri-County's request to form a Central Coast region after the initial three weeks of the new RSAHO expires if the collective ICU capacity of the tri-county region remains at 15% or better. All other cities in SLO County have either approved their Mayors to send a letter or are considering that authorization this week. Having a unified front in SLO County will be helpful in effectively stating the case for the State of California to reconsider our participation in the Southern California region related to the recent RSAHO. The Central Coast region, including SLO County, will continue its efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19 and mutually support each other in terms of need for hospital and ICU capacity.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Letter from Public Health Officers of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo County
2. Letter from San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
3. Draft Letter from Mayor to Governor



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
HEALTH AGENCY  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT



December 7, 2020

Dear Dr. Pan,

We would like to begin by thanking you for your leadership and dedication during this unprecedented global pandemic.

As Health Officers and Public Health Directors, we are writing today to ask for your consideration in allowing San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura County to exit the Regional Stay At Home Order (RSAHO) after three weeks, if the ICU capacity in our three counties exceeds 15% and is expected to stay on that course based on the four-week ICU bed capacity projection to be done biweekly by your Department.

We anticipate that as a Central Coast Coalition (CCC), we will be able to exit the RSAHO much sooner than as members of the Southern CA region. Our ICU capacity currently exceeds 15%, as you can see from the chart below. We are concerned that the high prevalence of disease in the large southern California counties will prevent our three counties from exiting the RSAHO.

We understand the concerns at the State level due to the unprecedented rise in case counts and impacts in many geographic areas on the general acute care hospital system in California and elsewhere. Therefore, we agree with the addition of a hospital-based metric to the considerations for non-pharmaceutical intervention (NPI). As you know, Dr. Borenstein has asked for just such action over many weeks as we all moved into the Blueprint for a Safer Economy as the schema for NPI determinations. Yet we believe that the utilization of such a large and diverse regional assignment is not reflective of the risks for our Central Coast area.

Our contiguous region of CCC counties has a long and deep history of collaboration and partnership to prevent disease, protect health in our region, and promote health equity. Below is just a highlight of some of our joint efforts over the past one to two decades:

- Regional laboratory response network (LRN)
- Covered California enrollment
- Every Woman Counts Cancer Detection Program
- Gold Coast Collaborative for Obesity Prevention
- Joint grant to address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)
- Farmworkers Health initiatives
- Tri-County Regional Tobacco Team

Unlike the rest of the Southern California regional boundaries being utilized for COVID-19 mitigation, we strongly anticipate that the three weeks in RSAHO will allow us to rapidly reset our case rates and testing

positivity, and further improve our ICU capacity. Our COVID-19 metrics (case rates and test positivity) and mitigation efforts (community outreach and education, testing and other efforts) among our three counties are similar, and our metrics are lower than the majority of the counties in the current region. We expect that continued and expanded collective efforts will improve our metrics sooner than if we are to remain in the larger region. Also, our Central Coast region has access to an alternate care site which has remained in warm status since April 2020, on the campus of Cal Poly, with an immediate 165-bed census (sufficient beds, oxygen concentrators, IV support, and PPE are in place) and the option to rapidly scale up to 900 beds with staff support. We will of course continue to partner with and assist other counties in the current Southern California region, but strongly feel that for our tri-county region, having our own region is in the best interest for our residents.

Therefore, we request that our long-standing CCC tri-county region, which is geographically, demographically, and functionally distinct from the rest of the Southern California region be allowed to exit the RSAHO as a separate region. Being kept in the RSAHO any longer is unnecessary and will cause preventable educational and economic hardships to our communities.

In closing, we respectfully request that our three counties be allowed to exit the current RSAHO when we meet the criteria because we have the capacity and the partnership to mitigate COVID-19 in our Central Coast Region, as well as to maintain our ICU capacity at the requested level.

In partnership,

San Luis Obispo County: Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH, Health Officer/Public Health Director



Santa Barbara County: Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD, Public Health Director



Santa Barbara County: Ansorg Henning, MD, Health Officer

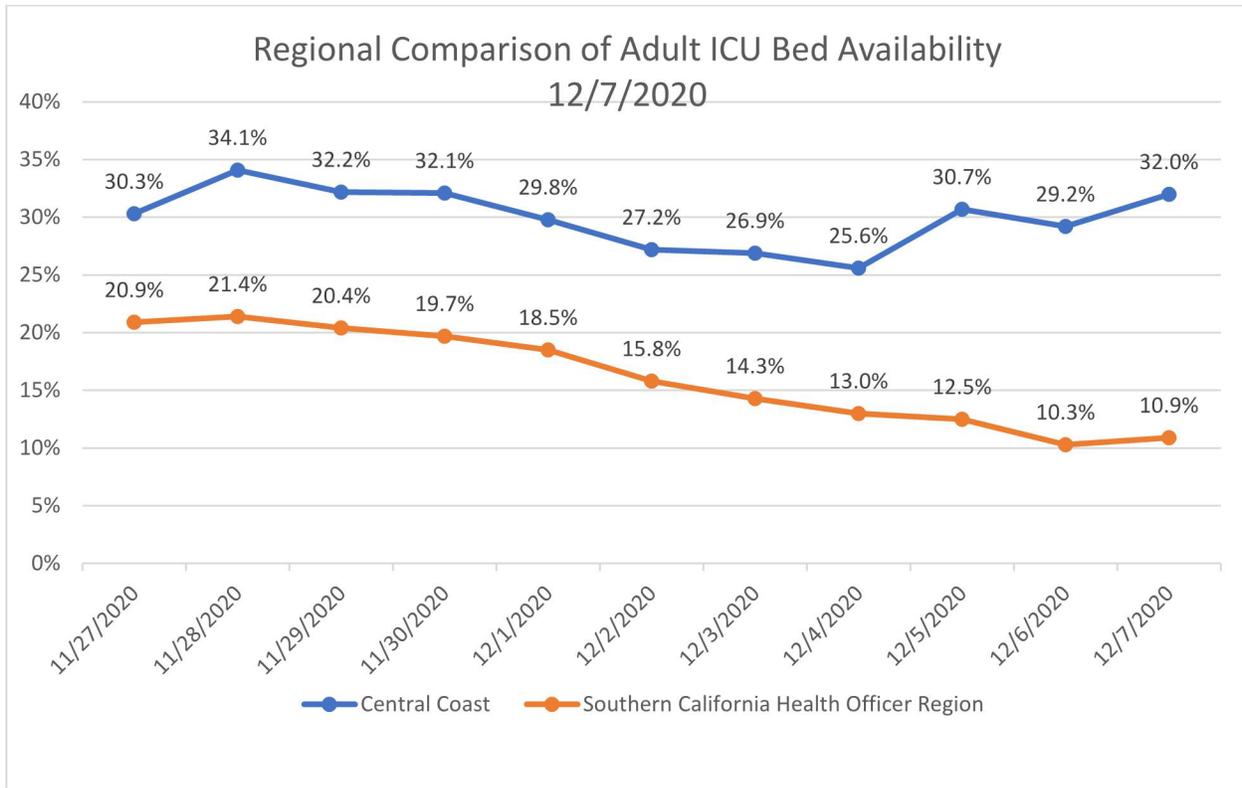


Ventura County: Robert Levin, MD, Health Officer



Ventura County: Rigoberto Vargas, MPH, Public Health Director





CC:

- San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
- San Luis Obispo County, County Administrative Officer
- Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
- Santa Barbara County Chief Executive Officer
- Ventura County Board of Supervisors
- Ventura County Chief Executive Officer
- Central Coast Region Elected State Representatives
- Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH, Secretary, CA Health & Human Services Agency



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**John Peschong** *District One Supervisor*  
**Bruce Gibson** *Vice-Chairperson, District Two Supervisor*  
**Dawn Ortiz-Legg** *District Three Supervisor*  
**Lynn Compton** *Chairperson, District Four Supervisor*  
**Debbie Arnold** *District Five Supervisor*

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December 8, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom  
1303 10th Street, Suite  
1173 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: San Luis Obispo County – Request for Central Coast Regional Consideration

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors, I want to request that San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties (Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Region 1A) be allowed to exit the regional stay at home order as a Central Coast Region after three weeks, if the collective ICU capacity in our three counties exceeds 15%.

As you stated at in your press conference of December 3, 2020, we must all work aggressively to blunt the surge of disease and bend the curve to protect the most vulnerable among us as well as our critical hospital ICU capacity. We too recognize this need and the gravity and importance of this moment. The County of San Luis Obispo and our Central Coast regional partners, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, have consistently modeled best practices in our strategies to collectively mitigate the spread of COVID-19, protect our shared constituencies and maintain critical hospital capacity. We are concerned that the high prevalence of disease in the large Southern California counties will prevent our three counties from exiting the Regional Stay At Home Order (RSAHO). Being kept in the RSAHO any longer is unnecessary and will cause deepening socio-behavioral impacts and economic hardships within our communities. It is also highly problematic to have us join the larger region when our communities have diligently complied with State and local health orders and remarkably succeeded in continuously suppressing hospitalizations and fatalities since the beginning of the pandemic.

We are therefore writing you today to urge your support of the Public Health Directors and Health Officers' unified request for San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties to exit the Regional Stay At Home Order as a Central Coast Region, after three weeks, if the ICU capacity in our three counties exceeds 15%.

The attached letter, signed by each county's Public Health Director and Health Officer, provides multiple examples of our history of partnership to prevent disease, protect health and promote health equity. In addition to that referenced, at the onset of COVID-19, our counties engaged in joint actions to serve our central coast constituencies through shared testing and lab resources, as well as alternative care site planning and mass communication. We are best positioned to understand the

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**County of San Luis Obispo Government Center**

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critical needs within our region and have existing partnerships to promote the health and economic well-being of our communities. This partnership, evolved over many decades, recognizes the symbiotic nature of our counties due to travel and the proximity of jobs to housing throughout the central coast, and is fostered daily in government, health care, business and academic settings. One additional three-county region is the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Region 1a, which was developed many years ago with the recognition that these three counties routinely intersect and cooperate more nimbly across this smaller geography. As noted in the Public Health Directors and Health Officers' letter, working in partnership as a Central Coast Region, we can adeptly reset case rate, decrease testing positivity and continue to improve the ICU capacity which currently stands at greater than 15% among the hospitals in our three counties. As of December 4, the Central Coast Region's ICU capacity is 25.6%.

We urge you to approve the request to exit the RSAHO if our three counties exceed 15% ICU capacity after three weeks so that we can continue to aggressively address COVID-19 impacts and avoid further and preventable socio-behavioral and economic hardships. Allowing this change will not have a significant impact on the ICU availability rate of the remaining counties in the Southern California Region, given their much larger size and populations; yet it will have a tremendous impact on the San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura communities. This change would not affect our continued commitment to assist other counties in the Southern California region or elsewhere during this critical time.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We will continue to work aggressively on mitigating the pandemic and its impact on our communities with our partners in the Central Coast and the State.

Sincerely,



Lynn Compton,  
Chair, Board of Supervisors  
County of San Luis Obispo

Encl: Letter from Public Health Officials

Cc:

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County Administrative Officer  
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
Santa Barbara County Chief Executive Officer  
Ventura County Board of Supervisors  
Ventura County Chief Executive Officer  
Central Coast Region Elected State Representatives  
Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH, Secretary, CA Health & Human Services Agency

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## CITY OF MORRO BAY

CITY HALL

595 Harbor Street  
Morro Bay, CA 93442

December \_\_, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom  
1303 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: *City Support for Request to Recognize Central Coast Region Under the Regional Stay At Home Order*

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am writing on behalf of the City Council for the City of Morro Bay, within the County of San Luis Obispo, to express our support for the request submitted by the Counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura to recognize the Central Coast Region under the Regional Stay At Home Order (RSAHO). This includes the request that the Central Coast Region be permitted to exit the existing RSAHO at the end of three weeks if our region's ICU capacity remains above 15%.

As described in the Central Coast Coalition's December 7<sup>th</sup> letter to Dr. Pan (enclosed), our Central Coast Region's ICU capacity has remained significantly above that being experienced in the remainder of the Southern California Region. In San Luis Obispo County, our ICU capacity remains at 48% as of the date of this letter. This data points to the success of the many steps that our communities have taken, and are committed to continuing to take, to keep us all safe and to control the most devastating impacts of this virus. At the same time, the closures and activity modifications that our businesses and residents have implemented as part of these efforts have created substantial hardships of their own, and these hardships will continue to negatively impact our families, businesses, livelihoods, and social structures beyond the life of the RSAHO.

On behalf of each of the cities in our county, we request that you consider the realities of our Central Coast Region's ICU capacity and our region's existing system of collaboration when determining whether to continue imposing the RSAHO on the Central Coast region. Our communities are suffering. They are suffering from the virus itself and from the effects of months of various closure orders. Meanwhile, our communities' diligent efforts to reduce the potential for overburdening our healthcare system are working well, regardless of the RSAHO. Our region's ICU capacity remains available to serve those in need, and this is not reflected in our current assignment to the Southern California Region.

We urgently request that you grant the request presented in the Central Coast Coalition's December 7<sup>th</sup> letter. Please allow our three counties to exit the RSAHO at the end of three weeks unless our collective ICU capacity falls below 15%.

Yours in service,