

Chief Administrative Office recommending the Board replace the Master Report for Legistar Item #20-0668 published on May 6, 2020, with this report, based on new information and guidance issued by the State of California at 12:00 pm on May 7, 2020, and consider and approve the following revised recommendations:

- 1) Receive a presentation from the Public Health Officer to illustrate the readiness of El Dorado County to move into Stage 2 of California's Pandemic Roadmap and setting forth the County of El Dorado's local plan to begin Stage 2 by adopting various safety measures to allow businesses and facilities identified in Stage 2 to reopen safely;
- 2) Authorize the Board Chair to sign a letter on behalf of the Board of Supervisors supporting the County Public Health Officer's "Variance Attestation Form" setting forth the County's readiness to move through Stage 2; and
- 3) Authorize the Public Health Officer to: (a) consult with the California Department of Public Health on the County's re-opening plan; and (b) submit the County's Request for a Variance from the State's Roadmap to the Governor's Office and the California Department of Public Health. The submittal shall include (i) the County's local readiness plan (Reopening Guidelines), (ii) the Containment Plan (iii) the letter of attestation from the Public Health Officer, (iv) the letter of support approved by the Board of Supervisors, and (v) related letters of support submitted by the Cities of Placerville and South Lake Tahoe, and El Dorado County hospitals.

FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION / BACKGROUND

Since March 19, 2020, all California residents and businesses have been operating under a Stay-at-Home order from the Governor which prohibits all but essential businesses and activities. On April 14, the Governor presented the Pandemic Roadmap, a four-stage plan for modifying the Stay-at-Home Order, but did not set forth timing for when Stage 2 would start. On April 28, El Dorado County's Public Health Officer presented the County's proposed Stage 2 plan at a special board meeting (#20-0617), sharing the County's Reopening Guidelines for all businesses and employers. At the conclusion of that meeting, the Board sent a letter to the Governor requesting that he allow El Dorado County to move forward into Stage 2.

On May 4, the Governor announced that entry into Stage 2 of the plan would be imminent. The County set this special meeting to be able to move to Stage 2 as quickly as possible. On May 7, the Governor held a press conference and the California Department of Public Health released a document setting forth the process by which counties could increase the pace by which they could advance through Stage 2.¹

¹The Governor and the California Department of Public Health issued "Variance to Stage 2 of California's Roadmap to Modify the Stay-At-Home Order: Guidance to County Governments" ("Variance Guidance Document") at 12:00 pm on May 7, 2020. That document is attached to this item for reference, and is not repeated in this report.

The Variance Guidance Document provides the criteria counties must meet in order to secure such a variance from the Stay-at-Home Order, and provides that each county must do each of the following:

1. Notify the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and engage in a phone consultation regarding the county's intent to seek a variance.
2. Certify through submission of a written attestation to CDPH that the county has met the readiness criteria designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Attestations should be submitted by the local public health officer, and accompanied by a letter of support from the County Board of Supervisors, as well as a letter of support from the local hospitals or health care systems. In the event that the county does not have a hospital or health care system within its jurisdiction, a letter of support from the relevant regional health system(s) is also acceptable. The full submission must be signed by the local public health officer.

The action presented now is for the Board of Supervisors to approve, and authorize the Chair to sign, a letter of support for the Public Health Officer's Variance Attestation Form and to authorize the Public Health Officer to submit a packet requesting a variance to the Governor and the CDPH that includes the Public Health Officer's Attestation, the Board's letter of support, and related documents.

It is important to note that the County's submission of the variance materials does not in itself authorize the County's businesses, employers and residents to move to Stage 2 of the State's Pandemic Roadmap. The State is the final arbiter of what is or is not allowed under the State Order. Thus, any business, employer, or resident who engages in activities prohibited in the current Stay-at-Home Order prior to the County obtaining verification from the state that El Dorado County's request to fully move into Stage 2 is authorized, is doing so at their own risk and could be found to be violating the State's order.

OTHER DEPARTMENT / AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

Public Health, Chief Administrative Office, Sheriff's Office - Emergency Operations

CLERK OF THE BOARD FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

None at this time.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPONENT

Public Safety, Health Communities, Economic Development

CONTACT

Don Ashton, Chief Administrative Officer