



## Position Statement December 30, 2020

This statement is presented on behalf of the June Lake Business Community. We need you, as our elected and administrative officials, to represent the interest of businesses in June Lake and Mono County. The call to action has now become crystal clear. We need you to fight to convince the Governor that the Mono County and June Lake business communities will not survive if the stay-at-home order is extended indefinitely. We are now experiencing our third and most devastating stay-at-home order of 2020. Simply put, our businesses need to open in a safe and reliable way or many will not survive. We understand there is a fine balance between ensuring the health care system is not overwhelmed vs protecting businesses from going bankrupt. Our businesses remain confident they can continue to operate in a safe manner.

- According to the Mono County website:  
<https://monocounty.quickbase.com/db/bqe3sh4ds?a=pagePreview&pageID=20&windowed=1> Northern Mono County has had a total (since March) of 84 cases including 1 death. This past summer we had guest counts that outpaced any summer EVER. Our case counts and hospitalizations remain minimal because we are following the guidelines.
- We believe in masks.
- We take #staysafetostayopen seriously.
- The business community of June Lake and surrounding Mono County communities have worked diligently to follow all health mandates in order to keep our guests and employees as safe and healthy as possible.
- Included in Governor Newsom's stay-at-home order are recommendations to get outside for the benefit of mental health. With plenty of open space, June Lake Loop and Mono County safely serves that purpose.
- We embrace each guidance under the purple tier mandate and would be open to discussion of further safety precautions.

- We are highly concerned about the mental health of our workforce and businesses owners who face financial challenges and home challenges such as domestic violence and substance abuse.
- During the December 23 special joint meeting of the Town of Mammoth Council and Mono County Board of Supervisors, Mammoth Hospital's CEO Tom Parker stated they are in the green zone, by no means "over run" and are confident they can provide quality healthcare at this time.
- The hospitals to which we most often send our critical patients are in Northern Nevada, a region that is not under a stay-at-home order. Nevada's lodging businesses are operating at 100 percent capacity and restaurants are operating at 25 percent capacity, with indoor dining available. Or to the UC Davis hospital system that is located in Sacramento which is currently in the "Greater Sacramento Region" which is currently at an ICU availability of 17.4% and their stay at home order should be lifted tomorrow at midnight according to the 21 day quarantine that was suggested back in early December when the ICU bed capacity began the measuring stick.  
<https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/#county-status>
- We have a 100 percent tourist-driven economy
- Having guests fill our lodging establishments drives our economic engine and ensures that our community will survive this pandemic. Allowing 50% occupancy will allow our businesses to survive this.
- We support the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce, the Mammoth Lakes Restaurant Assn and the Mammoth Lakes Lodging Assn. on their joint request for "Termination of the Regional Stay at Home Order, sent out on December 22.
- We believe that our rural mountain community is unique and should not be included in the Southern California region.
- We request that our county and state officials lobby to redraw the regional boundaries, removing Mono County from the Southern California region. Regulating a county of approximately 14,000 residents in 3,030 square miles based on the actions of counties that are home to over 10 million people in a slightly larger area is unjust and unreasonable. Mono County should be placed in a region appropriate to its demographics.

- currently the Northern California Region (in which we most closely identify with geographically) has an ICU availability of 31.5% and is not on a stay-at-home order
- We recommend the consideration of creating a 6th region that includes the other counties with ski areas included, as we all have a special set of circumstances.
- While we appreciate efforts to financially support businesses through local programs, these allocated funds are but a drop in the bucket of the monies need to continue to operate under the stay-at-home order. We should be operating, safely, through natural cashflow, rather than relying on insubstantial public funding.

We appreciate all of our elected officials' hard work during these unprecedented times.

We stand united as a small community.

Ralph Lockhart, Connie Lear, Amanda Spencer, Janet Hunt, John DeCoster, Jamie Schectman.

June Lake Loop Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

#TogetherWeRise