



City Council

Mike Anderson, Mayor
Susan Candell, Vice Mayor
Steven Bliss, Council Member
Cameron Burks, Council Member
Teresa Gerringer, Council Member

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

April 14, 2020

Re: Request for the Suspension of Certain State Required Processing Deadlines due to the Inefficiency of Teleconference-based Public Hearings

Dear Governor Newsom,

The Lafayette City Council and I sincerely thank you for your leadership during the COVID-19 emergency. Your guidance and assistance to the residents of California during these unprecedented times are greatly appreciated.

In Lafayette, there is a great tradition of public participation in consideration of planning and development issues. The ability for residents to fully express their feelings to the City Council or Planning Commission is a highly desired and essential component of our work for the City. However, to meet the current project processing deadlines, while grappling with the realities of the extended shelter in place order, we have had to use teleconferencing to hold our public hearings which severely limits the ability of our residents to fully participate. The result has been a sense of disenfranchisement on the part of our residents during hearings of great importance and impact to the community. Because of this, the City of Lafayette requests relief from statutory deadlines governing land use applications, including those under the Permit Streamlining Act, the Housing Accountability Act, the Subdivision Map Act, Public Records Act, and the California Environmental Quality Act, during the period of the required shelter in place order. This action would reconfirm the State's interest in the full participation of its residents in those local community issues so important to the wellbeing of their communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. In addition, the City of Lafayette also supports the recommendations made by the League of California Cities in its March 22 letter, attached. Granting their requests will provide us with the time, energy and resources to focus on the critical needs of our residents during this global pandemic.

Most Sincerely,

Mike Anderson
Mayor

Attachment

Cc: Senator Glazer
Assembly Member Bauer-Kahan