



## CITY OF GRASS VALLEY

125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Tim Kiser, City Manager

### Council Members

Lisa Swarthout, Mayor  
Ben Aguilar, Vice Mayor  
Jan Arbuckle  
Howard Levine  
Hilary Hodge

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May 12, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, 1st Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Moving toward the Phased Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Governor Newsom:

The City of Grass Valley and the Grass Valley City Council would like to thank you and your administration for your statewide leadership during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Your quick and forceful actions have decreased the spread of the virus within our state, reduced the surge impact on hospitals, and have greatly limited the death rate.

Your May 7, 2020 announcement regarding California's transition to the second phase of a methodical step process to full reopening provided much-needed hope for our disadvantaged community. Many of our local businesses are at risk of permanent closure if unable to open soon, and closure of these businesses will further impact financially our already disadvantaged community. We are confident, with the guidelines set forth by the State, Nevada County, and the City of Grass Valley, we can accomplish a safe slow reopening. Furthermore, we believe allowing our community to proceed to the second plus phase of reopening will help ensure prevention of cross-contamination as our community members will not need to travel out of our area for goods and services. Our City is at a crossroads where we see a need for balancing disease control alongside addressing the economic needs of our residents.

Based on the information from the Nevada County Public Health Department, the City of Grass Valley is confident that we can meet the criteria that you have outlined for moderating the stay-at-home order and allowing the gradual reopening of businesses. With proper guidelines and the information your administration has already provided, the City of Grass Valley feels that we are the legal body that should be attesting to the ability to open rather than the Nevada County Board of Supervisors. The City of Grass Valley has the hospitals, majority of the retail, restaurants, and businesses, but no say in the reopening process. If we can act fast, our community (businesses, retail, restaurants, and services) are willing to take whatever additional precautions needed to open safely in the ever changing COVID-19 environment. If we do not move quicker to provide the light at the end of the tunnel, we will lose our community collaboration we have been able to obtain so far with your leadership. Please allow the City of Grass Valley to determine our own destiny.

If you have any questions please reach out to me at (530) 274-4315.

Sincerely,

**CITY OF GRASS VALLEY**

Lisa Swarthout  
Mayor  
(530) 274-4315