



## Town Council Agenda Report

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Date: October 13, 2020 Item No. 11

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council

Subject: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY REQUESTING A TIERED DESIGNATION UNDER THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S "BLUEPRINT FOR A SAFER ECONOMY" BY RECOGNIZING THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO BY SUB-REGION RATHER THAN AS ONE COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSES OF REOPENING

From: Douglas B. Robertson, Town Manager

Submitted by: Julie Ryan, Special Projects Manager  
Town Manager's Office

Budgeted Item:  Yes  No  N/A

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### RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Town Council adopt Resolution No. 2020-53, a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Apple Valley requesting a tiered designation under the State of California's "Blueprint for a Safer Economy" by recognizing the County of San Bernardino by sub-region rather than as one County for the purposes of reopening.

### BACKGROUND

On March 19, 2020, due to COVID-19, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20, ordering all individuals in California to stay in their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of federal critical infrastructure sectors, thereby reducing and stopping non-essential businesses from continuing operations.

On August 28, 2020 Governor Newsom issued a new framework entitled "Blueprint for a Safer Economy" (Blueprint). The Blueprint originally and specifically, requires California counties to meet stated benchmarks in overall case rates and testing positivity rates in order to move into less restrictive tiers that would allow for a measured reopening of businesses, schools and other activities. On Monday, September 7, 2020, Governor Newsom announced an adjustment to his Blueprint, now including a benchmark on

overall testing rates as an added criteria California counties must meet for the reopening of businesses, churches, schools and other activities.

## **ANALYSIS**

Governor Newsom's adjustments and changes to stated goals and objectives in dealing with COVID-19 complicate the County of San Bernardino's ability to manage this crisis, forcing the County to change course, re-prioritize, reposition and re-adapt, causing delay in reopening the County.

The recommended resolution requests the State of California recognize the County of San Bernardino by sub-region, or County Districts, thereby allowing for a tiered designation of the Blueprint. The resolution also requests the State to determine that communities in the County of San Bernardino that have experienced historically low rates of infection, such as the First Supervisorial District, be permitted to reopen. Attached is a map identifying the relative size of the County of San Bernardino in relation to counties in Northern California.

Adoption of Resolution No 2020-53 recognizes the importance of all businesses and activities in the Town of Apple Valley and understands the economic harm closures have caused during the COVID-19 pandemic. Resolution No. 2020-53 further urges the State to recognize the low incidences of COVID-19 in the First District of the County of San Bernardino and seeks to reopen in some reasonable manner.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact to approving this Resolution.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Resolution No. 2020-53
- B. County of San Bernardino Map

## RESOLUTION NO. 2020-53

### A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, REQUESTING A TIERED DESIGNATION UNDER THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA'S "BLUEPRINT FOR A SAFER ECONOMY" BY RECOGNIZING THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO BY SUB-REGION RATHER THAN AS ONE COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSES OF REOPENING

**WHEREAS**, the State of California has established its "Blueprint for a Safer Economy" that assigns all California counties to one of four business reopening tiers based on its actual COVID-19 experience with regard to new cases, test results, and health equity; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of San Bernardino is the largest county in the United States, and is nearly the size of the State of West Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of San Bernardino is nearly twice as large as Inyo County, the second largest county in California; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of San Bernardino is 86 times larger than San Francisco County, nine times larger than Ventura County, and more than four times larger than San Diego County, all of which are currently operating at a less restrictive tier with similar or worse incidences of COVID-19 than many communities in the County of San Bernardino; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of San Bernardino is a geographically diverse county, with large suburban communities in the Los Angeles metro area, smaller mountain communities at high elevation and considerable distance from other populated areas, and isolated desert communities located several hours from other more densely populated communities in the county; and

**WHEREAS**, higher incidences of COVID-19 in more densely populated areas of the County of San Bernardino are preventing many of the smaller, more isolated communities in the county with relatively low incidences of COVID-19, such as in the First Supervisorial District, from advancing to less restrictive tiers under the "Blueprint for a Safer Economy", thereby causing significant economic harm in these communities with no significant public health benefits for these communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Apple Valley and the entire First District have experienced relatively low incidences of COVID-19 for the duration of this emergency event; and

**WHEREAS**, with the hotter and colder temperatures impacting the Town of Apple Valley and the First District, it is imperative that more businesses be permitted to operate indoors in accordance with guidelines included in the less restrictive tiers in the "Blueprint for a Safer Economy"; and

**WHEREAS**, as of October 7, 2020, it is likely that the Town of Apple Valley and the First District would qualify for the "Orange Tier" (reflecting moderate risk) and perhaps the "Yellow Tier" (reflecting minimal risk), which would allow nearly all businesses in the Town of Apple Valley and the First District to operate in some reasonable manner.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** That the Town Council does hereby request the State of California recognize the unique geography of the County of San Bernardino.

**Section 2.** That the State of California recognize the varying COVID-19 experiences in the communities within the County of San Bernardino.

**Section 3.** That the State of California recognize the need for businesses and activities to operate at greater capacity in smaller, more isolated communities with a relatively low incidence of COVID-19.

**Section 4.** That the State of California designate sub-regions, or Districts, of the County of San Bernardino for the purpose of determining tiered designations under the State’s “Blueprint for a Safer Economy”.

**Section 5.** That the Town Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Apple Valley this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020.

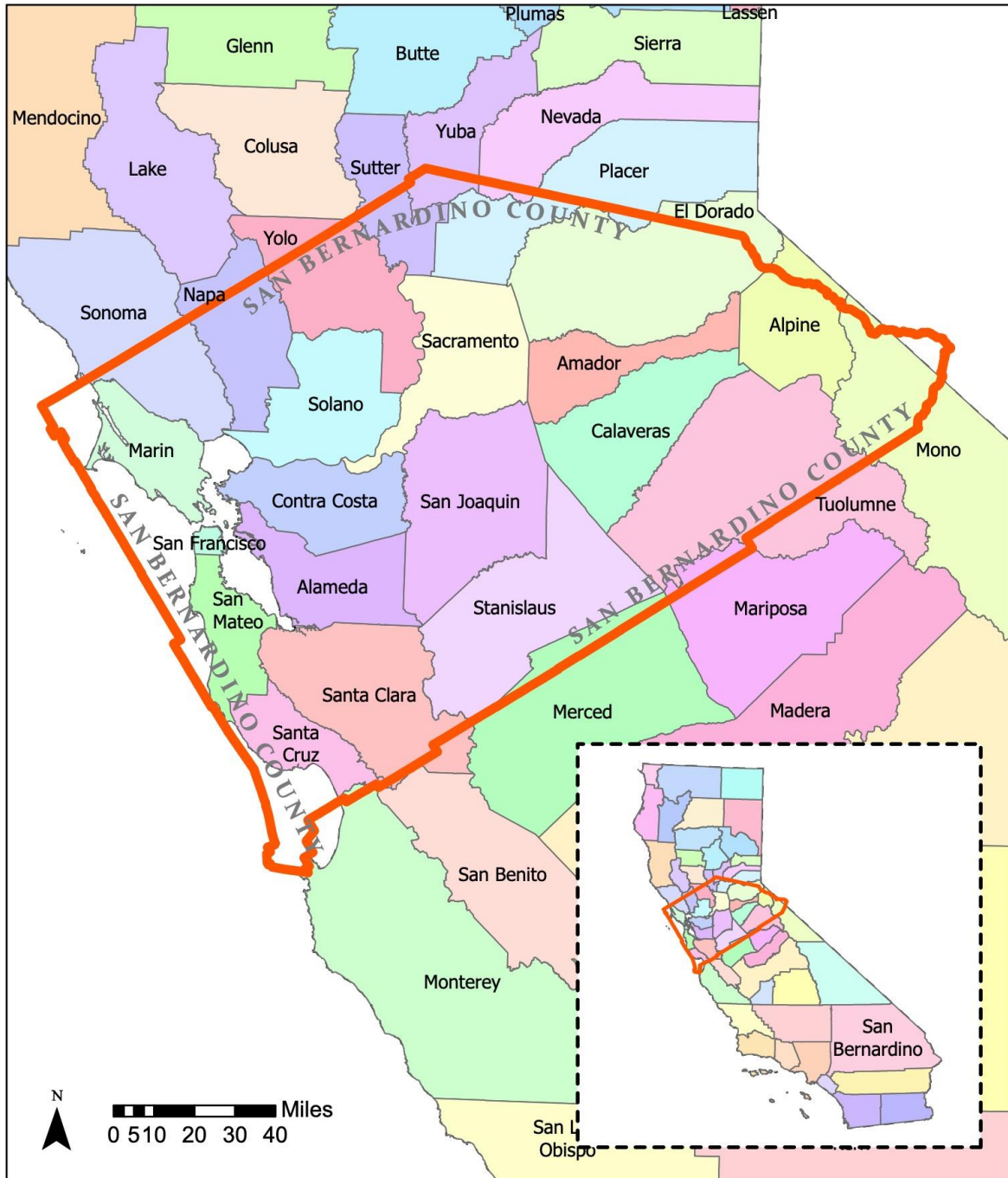
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Scott Nassif  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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La Vonda M-Pearson  
Town Clerk



Brandon Cales, CGCIO, GISP | Dept. of Innovation and Technology | Printed 2020-10-08



## Size Comparison of San Bernardino County to Northern Counties