



June 1, 2020

VIA EMAIL: [nquick@ochca.com](mailto:nquick@ochca.com)

Dr. Nichole Quick, MD, MPH  
Orange County Health Care Agency  
405 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**RE: Reopening of Public Swimming Pools**

Dear Dr. Quick,

On behalf of twenty-six cities in Orange County we, the mayors of each city, respectfully request that you work with us to gain the State and County's immediate authorization to accelerate the reopening of public swimming pools for general recreational fitness and competitive lap swimming subject to adequate social distancing, strict hygienic guidelines and supervision. There are many arguments in favor of allowing public pools to open:

- Swimming is one of the healthiest forms of exercise for people, and may be the only safe form of physical exercise available to certain at-risk segments of our population.
- Swimming in private and certain HOA pools is already allowed in Stage 2. Many of those facilities do not provide supervision or monitoring to enforce social distancing or sanitary practices, whereas public pools always provide supervision and lifesaving personnel to monitor social distancing guidelines and hygienic standards. It is discriminatory, irrational and wrong to allow one and not the other.
- Both the CDC and NIH are comfortable that the disease cannot spread in properly chlorinated water.
- Scientific studies have shown that the virus will not live outside for more than a few minutes at the temperatures that the outdoor California pools experience, further minimizing the risk to lap swimmers.
- Swimming is inherently a "solo" sport and easily lends itself to physical distancing.
- Access can be limited by reservations to one or two swimmers (starting/stopping from opposite ends) per lane to maintain social distancing.

- One-way directional travel to and from the parking lot and pool can be maintained and wearing of masks to the pool and other guidelines can be enforced.
- Restroom facilities can be limited to use of one person at a time and surfaces can be sanitized after each use.
- We firmly believe that pools across the County can be used now for lap swimming and by supervised community members in a safe manner, even safer than other forms of recreation that are already authorized, such as tennis and golf.
- Several other industries have been accelerated from Stage 3 into Stage 2, including barber shops, hair salons and places of worship, subject to guidelines, and public swimming pools provide essential healthy recreation that is at least as important and safe as these other essential businesses.
- Swimming and surfing are allowed at our public beaches with little-to-no supervision. If you can swim in the ocean, you can swim in a sanitary pool!
- Swimming is deeply ingrained in our California lifestyle and our residents are begging to be allowed back into our pools, for healthful recreation purposes.

We believe that the State’s Stage 2 Guidelines are needlessly discriminatory towards public pools, and we are prepared to safely reopen our public pools immediately according to the County’s guidance listed on the Health Care Agency’s COVID-19 website and with our County Health Officer’s blessing and authorization. Please say “Yes” and authorize the opening of your public pools immediately!

Sincerely,



**Mike Munzing**  
Mayor  
City of Aliso Viejo



**Marty Simonoff**  
Mayor  
City of Brea



**Katrina Foley**  
Mayor  
City of Costa Mesa



**Rob Johnson**  
Mayor  
City of Cypress



**Cheryl Brothers**  
Mayor  
City of Fountain Valley



**Jennifer Fitzgerald**  
Mayor  
City of Fullerton



**Lyn Semeta**  
Mayor  
City of Huntington Beach



**Christina Shea**  
Mayor  
City of Irvine



**Tom Beamish**  
Mayor  
City of La Habra



**Bob Whalen**  
Mayor  
City of Laguna Beach



**Laurie Davies**  
Mayor  
City of Laguna Niguel



**Noel Hatch**  
Mayor  
City of Laguna Woods



**Neeki Moatzedi**  
Mayor  
City of Lake Forest



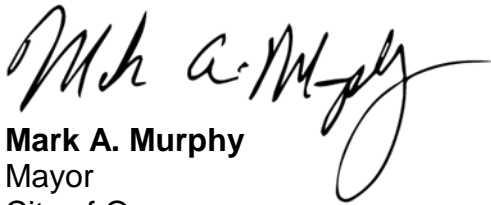
**Richard D. Murphy**  
Mayor  
City of Los Alamitos



**Brian Goodell**  
Mayor  
City of Mission Viejo



**Will O'Neill**  
Mayor  
City of Newport Beach



**Mark A. Murphy**  
Mayor  
City of Orange



**Ward Smith**  
Mayor  
City of Placentia



**Bradley J. McGirr**  
Mayor  
City of Rancho Santa Margarita



**Laura Ferguson**  
Mayor Pro Tem  
City of San Clemente



**Miguel A. Pulido**  
Mayor  
City of Santa Ana



**David J. Shawver**  
Mayor  
City of Stanton



**Allan Bernstein**  
Mayor  
City of Tustin



**Robbie Pitts**  
Mayor  
City of Villa Park



**Tri Ta**  
Mayor  
City of Westminster



**Beth Haney**  
Mayor  
City of Yorba Linda

cc: Frank Kim ~ ECO, County of Orange  
Board of Supervisors, County of Orange  
City of Mission Viejo City Council  
City Manager, Dennis Wilberg