



2099 S. State College Blvd. Suite 600
P.O. Box 4270
Anaheim, CA 92806
714. 765. 2800

February 9, 2021

Subject: California's theme parks are prepared to safely reopen now!

Dear Governor Newsom,

At the beginning of 2020, major theme parks in Orange County employed more than 42,000 employees who served approximately 30 million visitors annually. Since the shelter-at-home orders went into effect in mid-March, tens of thousands of employees have been furloughed or permanently laid off and hundreds of resort-based small businesses have filed for bankruptcy or have permanently closed.

The economic impacts are affecting all 3.2 million residents of Orange County. In addition to double-digit unemployment rates and small business losses, our cities and public agencies are reeling from significant losses of tax revenue to fund public safety and vital community services.

Theme parks across the country and the world have opened responsibly, with no recorded outbreaks of coronavirus. Disney Parks have a proven track record of implementing stringent health and safety protocols as they've opened their parks around the world, at reduced capacities, with no adverse health impacts. Downtown Disney in Anaheim has been open since mid-June with no traceable guest cases of COVID-19. Theme parks are prepared to responsibly re-open in the Orange Tier and are prepared to adhere to the state's theme park guidelines.

Reopening responsibly is the highest priority for Visit Anaheim and the resort-based industry statewide. To support the health and safety of Orange County residents, employees, businesses and all who visit our world-class destination, Visit Anaheim partnered with the City of Anaheim to become the first western U.S. destination to secure the Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC STAR™) facility accreditation for cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention. This industry gold standard is the only outbreak prevention, response, and recovery accreditation. Visit Anaheim is confident the necessary infrastructure and public health measures in place to support the safety of residents, employees, and visitors to Orange County.

Visit Anaheim urges you to work with our industry to expedite the reopening of theme parks in the Orange Tier. Other states and countries have proven theme parks can operate safely. State mandated closures of our theme parks have caused long-term devastation to California's travel and tourism industries and bankrupted thousands of small businesses, with the greatest impact on the tens of thousands of service workers who have been indefinitely furloughed or laid off with no hope in sight of returning to work.

Please work with our industry officials to authorize reopening theme parks as part of the Orange Tier. There is no health, science or data-based reason to delay further.

Sincerely,

visitanahaim.org



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Burress", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jay Burress
President & CEO