August 3, 2020

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

Governor Newsom:

We write today as a united coalition of mayors of the third-most populous county in California representing more than 3.3 million people to advocate for guidance to resume youth sports in our local communities in Orange County.

With your leadership, we have been working at the city level to respond to COVID-19 in a way that protects the public’s health and supports our local economy. We appreciate your leadership in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic in our state and for activating both state and local public health officials, equipping them to make data-informed decisions. At this time, our community is looking to the State of California to use that data to guide local governments to allow youth sports activities to continue once again.

As communities throughout the United States resume youth sports activities, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued guidance to help local communities make sure that these activities can be carried out safely, while protecting players, families, and communities—and thereby slowing the spread of COVID-19. We are particularly interested in the State allowing youth sports activities to resume. Bringing back youth sports, under the guidance of our public health officials, would support the health and well-being of our children. Additionally, reopening youth sports with appropriate guidance would be consistent with your administration’s recent orders that allow for professional sports activities to resume.

We respectfully request that your administration permit local governments to allow youth sports activities to safely resume with proper public health guidance.

Sincerely,

ORANGE COUNTY MAYORS:

Anaheim Mayor Harry Sidhu
Buena Park Mayor Fred Smith
Dana Point Mayor Richard Viczorek
Fullerton Mayor Jennifer Fitzgerald

Brea Mayor Marty Simonoff
Cypress Mayor Rob Johnson
Fountain Valley Mayor Cheryl Brothers
Garden Grove Mayor Steven R. Jones
Huntington Beach Mayor Lyn Semeta

La Habra Mayor Tom Beamish

Laguna Hills Mayor Janine Heft

Laguna Woods Mayor Noel Hatch

Los Alamitos Mayor Richard D. Murphy

Newport Beach Mayor Will O’Neill

Placentia Mayor Ward Smith

Santa Ana Mayor Miguel A. Pulido

Stanton Mayor David J. Shawver

Villa Park Mayor Robert Pitts

Yorba Linda Mayor Dr. Beth Haney

Irvine Mayor Christina L. Shea

Laguna Beach Mayor Bob Whalen

Laguna Niguel Mayor Laurie Davies

Lake Forest Mayor Neeki Moatazedi

Mission Viejo Mayor Brian Goodell

Orange Mayor Mark A. Murphy

San Clemente Mayor Pro Tem Laura Ferguson

Seal Beach Mayor Schelly Sustarsic

Tustin Mayor Dr. Allan Bernstein

Westminster Mayor Tri Ta