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*Protecting the
rights and interests
of the California
hotel industry*

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February 10, 2021

Dear Public Health Officer,

California hotels are safe, healthy and prepared.

We are ready to resume meetings and events that will return thousands of employees to work, boost your county's economic recovery and replenish much-needed tax revenues. We urge you to allow us to host meetings again. It's the next, safe step now that California hotels have begun re-opening for non-essential travel.

We have been one of the healthiest and most-prepared industry sectors since the coronavirus arrived. Our [Clean + Safe Guidance](#) – developed to the standards of the Centers for Disease Control and inclusive of the California Department of Public Health and Cal/OSHA guidance – was in place in April 2020, two months prior to the release of official guidance. Our employees were trained, had implemented safety protocols for guests and were covered with plenty of personal protective equipment well ahead of the first reopening in June 2020. In October, CHLA issued its [Clean + Safe Guidance: Meetings and Events](#), in English and Spanish, to prepare for gatherings and dining in outdoor areas and hotel conference rooms.

As validation of our preparation, during all of 2020, there were no significant COVID-19 outbreaks at hotels affecting employees or guests throughout the state. None. That is a testament to the priority our hotels have placed on the well-being of our people and their abilities to implement evolving health standards throughout the year. Our health and safety record is even more significant given that hotels have hosted a multitude of vulnerable populations, including the unsheltered, those quarantining, healthcare professionals, and first responders.

We've done our part. We've listened and implemented the recommendations of health experts and adapted to the ever-changing mandates by elected and regulatory leaders. Through more than 10 months, we've persevered as strong community advocates and strong stewards for the health of our employees and guests.

Reopening hotels for meetings and events is the next logical step for California's economic recovery. With the vaccine distribution being more widespread and hotel employees being eligible to receive the vaccine in Phase 1b, Tier 2 (beginning in early February), having guidance and planning in place to allow meetings is reasonable and feasible.

[All other states are hosting individual meetings](#), including competitive

destinations such as New York, Seattle, Chicago, Denver and Phoenix. Las Vegas even recently approved hosting meetings up to 1,000 people. We risk losing meeting business for years to come if we don't restart meetings soon as groups avoid California's will-they-open/will-they-not-open environment.

With a plan and certainty about when and how hotels can reopen for meetings and events, the job losses can be reversed and, like following the Great Recession, the hospitality industry can begin to lead California's economic recovery.

Your leadership and your decisions are critical to the livelihoods of so many in your county's hospitality industry. Once you're satisfied that meetings and events can be hosted safely, we encourage you to request that CDPH does the same. And, when statewide support for meetings is announced by CDPH, we ask that you immediately approve meetings and events in a local health order. If I can help in any way, please contact me at 916-799-4592 or at lynn@calodging.com.

We are safe, healthy, and prepared to host meetings and events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn S. Mohrfeld". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "M".

Lynn S. Mohrfeld
President + CEO
California Hotel and Lodging Association