



Local Union 569

San Diego and Imperial Counties



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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March 19, 2020

Honorable Supervisor Nathan Fletcher
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Supervisor Fletcher,

Thank you for your strong leadership in addressing the COVID-19 outbreak with ample focus on protecting our communities and working families, including our vulnerable neighbors – the homeless and senior citizens.

As we may be moving toward taking additional measures to curb the spread of the virus, and the County consider adoption of a "Shelter in Place Ordinance" as our counterparts in Northern California have done, IBEW 569 and our 3,400 unionized electricians and power professionals advocate the following provisions be considered and incorporated into such an Ordinance within the County of San Diego:

Exceptions to the Shelter in Place Ordinance shall include the following provisions as adopted by the Counties of Santa Clara and Alameda¹:

- 1) Plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences, Essential Activities, and Essential Businesses;*
- 2) For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence to provide any services or perform any work necessary to the operations and maintenance of "Essential Infrastructure," including, but not limited to, public works construction,*

¹ See: <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/phd/DiseaseInformation/novel-coronavirus/Pages/order-health-officer-031620.aspx>

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/phd/DiseaseInformation/novel-coronavirus/Documents/FAQ-Shelter-in-Place-03-16-20.pdf>

<http://acphd.org/media/559658/health-officer-order-shelter-in-place-20200316.pdf>

construction of housing (in particular affordable housing or housing for individuals experiencing homelessness), airport operations, water, sewer, gas, electrical, oil refining, roads and highways, public transportation, solid waste collection and removal, internet, and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national, and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services), provided that they carry out those services or that work in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements as defined this Section, to the extent possible.

We feel strongly that exceptions to *Essential Infrastructure* should be added for electricians and individuals working on or for hospitals, clinics, medical facilities, and biopharma facilities and structures – especially given the need to increase hospital beds, acute medical care, and develop medicines and vaccines to combat COVID-19.

Our members are at the forefront of ensuring public safety is maintained by building, renovating and maintaining essential public infrastructure and buildings. As the nation enters a severe recession, we stand committed to building stronger communities with the best skilled and trained electrical workforce of the region. We hope the County will recognize our efforts and ensure the construction industry and our working families are not put on the streets.

If the County is to consider taking such action with “Shelter In Place,” IBEW 569 hopes you can adopt the above language and sentiment for San Diego County.

Again, thank you for your consideration and leadership.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Abrams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeremy Abrams
Business Manager, IBEW 569