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July 23, 2020

To: Dr. Corwin Porter
San Bernardino County Public Health

The Homestead Valley Community Council (HVCC) was formed in 1996 to address all matters affecting the Morongo Basin unincorporated communities of Yucca Mesa, Flamingo Heights, Landers, and Johnson Valley. It is comprised of delegates appointed through the community associations of each of these member communities.

Students residing in the communities of Yucca Mesa, Flamingo Heights, and Landers are served by Morongo Unified School District (MUSD). Students residing in Johnson Valley are served by Lucerne Valley Unified School District (LVUSD).

While we strongly disagree with Governor Newsom's mandate that school reopening is suspended for now, we are aware of a waiver for elementary schools to reopen under a hybrid plan. HVCC supports all schools of all grades that invoke this waiver and desire to reopen as normally scheduled.

Governor Newsom's mandate for distant learning only does not reconcile with what scientists are saying about Covid-19 and its effect on children. We believe the need for children to be back in classrooms in front of teachers far outweighs the small risk this virus poses to minors.

HVCC is in full support of schools opening for the 2020/2021 session. This decision belongs in the hands of local school officials who know much more about their districts and the families they serve than politicians in Sacramento.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jim Harvey'.

Jim Harvey
President, Homestead Valley Community Council