March 23, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California’s Engineers and Land Surveyors – COVID-19 Crisis Field Operations Assistance

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies, California (ACEC California), I wish to applaud your exemplary leadership in this difficult time.

ACEC California’s nearly 1,100 member firms wish to offer our professional services to you and your team, as you increase efforts to battle the COVID-19 crisis. Whether it be the development of emergency shelter housing, the expansion of hospital capacity, berthing of hospital ships, or assistance in crisis field operations, the partnership between the state, local governments and the Architecture & Engineering (A&E) industry is vital.

We have several member firms that have the expertise and experience to quickly design and oversee the construction of safe, temporary emergency structures. ACEC California can rapidly assist the appropriate state and National Guard personnel to connect with regionally based firms that are ready to assist. Please let us know how we can help.

Consistent with your order, along with so many businesses that provide critical and essential services to our state’s 40 million people, California’s design firms are implementing protocols to ensure the health and safety of employees in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In consideration of Executive Order N-33-20, which orders “all individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operation of the federal critical infrastructure sectors [...],” our members wish to stress the importance of maintaining California’s physical infrastructure. Infrastructure projects – including transportation, water delivery, school facilities, affordable housing, and hospitals – must be adequately maintained and even expanded in order to meet current and future needs.
We are committed to safely continuing progress on critical projects, to keep people on those projects working, maintain contractual obligations and schedules, and mitigate economic damage in the wake of this crisis. The role that local governments play in facilitating the delivery of public work projects cannot be understated. Fundamental to success is a structure that allows certain public employees – for example, essential regulators and local planners – to do their jobs.

California is currently facing great challenges, and the A&E communities remain dedicated to helping you serve the state’s residents by continuing to build a better California. If we may be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me directly at (916) 715-0683 or email: bdiede@acec-ca.org.

Sincerely,

Brad Diede
Executive Director

c.c.
Ann O’Leary, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor of California
Ana Matosantos, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor of California
Mark Ghilarducci, Director, Cal OES
Timothy Perry, Chief of Staff, Cal OES
Abby Browning, Chief of the Office of Private Sector/Non-Governmental Organization Coordination, Cal OES
Reggie Salvador, Legislative Director, Cal OES