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March 30, 2020

Sutter County Board of Supervisors
[Phuong Luu, MD](#), Public Health Officer
C/O Steve Smith, County Administrative Officer
1160 Civic Center Blvd., Suite A
Yuba City, CA 95993

SUBJECT: Construction Industry Commitment to Safety

The COVID-19 outbreak has had a significant impact on all Californians, with the long-term effects on the economy having yet to be estimated or realized. Construction is vital to move the state forward. Our member companies, who are among the essential construction businesses employing thousands of journey workers and apprentices across Northern California, appreciate your ongoing support of our industry.

Our members are committed to the health, safety and welfare of our workforce and the public. Safety has always been and continues to be our top priority while we build a better California. Even though OSHA has indicated that the risk of infection with COVID-19 to construction workers is low, our members are implementing strict measures for the safety of their workforce during these times. We are enhancing and modifying safety and stop work plans to effectively mitigate the risk for workers. We are construction safety subject matter experts and remain committed to be your top resource for industry safety standards through this pandemic. We are all in this together.

We are continuously helping our members evaluate the risks and exposures on the job site. To ensure projects are delivered in the safest method possible, here are some of the procedures that we are helping our members implement:

- Encouraging all jobsites to have a COVID-19 Compliance Officer to ensure compliance with the CDC, OSHA and State Order Health guidelines.
- Conducting COVID-19 safety talks and daily personal health reminders
- Banning visitors to a jobsite unless the visit is purpose driven to control unnecessary quantities of people on a jobsite.
- Developing new work techniques that do not allow workers to work over or under each other
- Maximizing technology for communication purposes to reduce onsite people and jobsite traffic
- Limiting the number of employees riding hoists
- Providing hand sanitizer and additional portable hand washing stations
- Maintaining 6 to 10 feet of space between workers.
- Moving all jobsite meetings from the trailer to open air meetings
- Purchasing additional tools to ease sharing where possible, however, if sharing tools are disinfected multiple times throughout the day

- Staggering crew arrival/departure times to prevent all workers showing up at the jobsite at the same time
- Utilizing a “Fit for Duty” protocol
- We are encouraging workers to change clothes prior to arriving home and wash work clothes in hot water and sanitizer.
- Proper care and use of personal protective equipment (respirators, gloves, eye, and face protection)
- We are encouraging site disinfection schedules to happen throughout the day to reduce exposure through surface contact.

The work performed by these frontline men and women is not only helping to ease a negative impact on public health but is also helping to create a better quality of life for all of our residents.

As you know, barriers and any halt on the construction industry at this time will only result in worker layoffs that will make it extremely difficult for construction companies to meet the demand to maintain existing healthcare facilities, build new ones, or retrofit existing structures (such as dorms, hotels and ships) for emergency use. They won't be able to modify manufacturing facilities to meet an increased demand for medical supplies or provide new transportation corridors for people and materials. Moreover, such a hit to the construction industry workforce will undermine current and future efforts to recover the economy.

The industry is adapting, evolving and dealing with the virus in a responsible and practical manner. We've already taken proactive steps to decrease human density on sites and implement best practices. We are self-regulating with high standards and making it clear that if people are concerned for themselves or their family members who have underlying health conditions, they are encouraged to stay home. Let's allow those that want to work safely, and support their families and community keep working while providing much-needed economic development for our state.

Thank you in advance for your quick response and your continued efforts to help slow the spread of the coronavirus in our community. If we can provide you or your team with any assistance or support, please do not hesitate to reach out to michele@abcnocal.org or my personal cell phone is 775.530.4266.

Sincerely,



Michele Daugherty

President & CEO

Associated Builders and Contractors Northern California Chapter

Attachments

About ABC NorCal:

ABC NorCal represents nearly 500 companies, both large and small, across Northern California. We are the construction professionals in your community, building your community. We are all about providing work opportunities in our industry and ensuring folks are trained, safe and delivering the highest quality product possible. For over forty years ABC NorCal has done its part in training a skilled workforce in the construction trades, training over 1,500 state and federally approved apprentices, journey workers, and craft trainees each year, a vital component to the sustainability of the industry. Our diverse apprentices, journey workers and craft trainees come from all walks of life – some are fresh out of high school, some are starting a second career, and some desire a fresh start. They emerge from the programs with a good-paying job and the skills and training that can take their career in many directions. It is truly a path of endless opportunities.