



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE / WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Martin Settevendemie, Agricultural Commissioner / Sealer of Weights & Measures

Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures Update - July 2020

COVID-19 RELATED ISSUES AFFECTING LOCAL AGRICULTURE

San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner's Offices to Partially Re-Open on July 6, 2020

CONTACT: Marc Lea, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer; 805.781.5907

As of next Monday, July 6th, in accordance with direction received from County Administration, our offices will be re-opening to the public. However, our office hours will not be the same as in the past and we will not operate in exactly the same manner as we did prior to the onset of the COVID crisis.

- The San Luis Obispo Office will be open during regular office hours from 8-5. Protective barriers have been installed in order to minimize any potential exposure for the public.
- The outer offices in Arroyo Grande and Templeton will be open to walk-up customers, but only from 12-2 during designated office hours. Staff are available in those offices during other times of the day but by appointment only.
- Despite the re-openings, we are still encouraging all customers to make an appointment prior to coming to the office so that we can better handle how many people are in the office at any one time and ensure social distancing. If we have too many walk-up customers at any one time, they will likely need to wait outside until we finish with those who arrived before them.
- As part of the state's mandatory directive on face coverings, all customers are required to wear a mask in any public building, including all of our offices.
<https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/face-coverings.aspx>

The San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner's Office received a large shipment of disposable masks to be distributed to local Agricultural Workers:

CONTACT: Tom Morgan, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer; 805.781.4120

Recently, the California Department of Food & Agriculture conducted online industry surveys in order to gauge the need for personal protective equipment for agricultural operations across the state due to the COVID-19 crisis. Based on those survey results, the state has obtained and distributed thousands of disposable facemasks to County Ag Commissioners across the state to help slow the spread of COVID-19. San Luis Obispo County received a shipment of these masks and are making those available at no cost to any agricultural business that needs them for their employees.

These are disposable face masks that would be most beneficial for harvest crews and other workers that are operating in areas where it is difficult to meet social distancing guidelines. These **are not** N95 masks

suitable for certain pesticide application or pesticide handling activities. Due to the severe shortage of N95 masks, the state has not been able to procure those type of masks at this time.

Growers or businesses that would like to obtain these free disposable masks should contact Tom Morgan at the number included above.

The State of California has developed an online marketplace to help businesses order much needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other safety related equipment

In the past week, California opened the *Safely Making California* online marketplace. The website was designed to help connect California businesses, including growers and agricultural employers, with PPE manufacturers. This online portal could be an effective method for growers to obtain the much-needed PPE and other safety and cleaning supplies necessary for operation during this COVID crisis.

<https://www.safelymakingca.org/>

<https://www.safelymakingca.org/marketplace>