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**San Joaquin County Files Brief Supporting Small-Business Challenge to the Governor's
Blueprint for a Safer Economy
*Effort Could Help Regain Local Control of Restrictive COVID-19 Orders by State***

Joined by Fresno and Placer counties, San Joaquin County has filed a friend-of-the-court brief in an action pending before the California Court of Appeal, in which small businesses are challenging the constitutionality of Governor Newsom's "Blueprint for a Safer Economy."

The Constitution prohibits the Governor from acting as both Executive and Legislature for an indefinite period of time—now going on over one year—under the California Emergency Services Act. If that Act can be interpreted to give him that extraordinary authority, then the Act violates the California Constitution, because it permits the delegation of quintessentially legislative powers to the Governor.

According to the brief, as a friend-of-the-court the County seeks to reclaim its constitutional authority to ensure that orders affecting its residents and business are tailored to the specific realities and needs of its jurisdiction, versus an overarching, one-region-fits-all solution that treats the County the same as Los Angeles, San Diego, or San Francisco, and results in unnecessary lockdowns, restrictions on freedom, and destruction of jobs.

"The County has worked tirelessly on behalf of county residents and businesses, urging the State to recognize that the County's size and geographic diversity should allow for fewer restrictions in communities with lower COVID-19 metrics than the State as a whole," said San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Chairman Tom Patti. "The State has ignored the County's plea, necessitating an appeal to the courts."

The case is *Ghost Golf, Inc. v. Gavin Newsom*, and the brief filed by the county coalition is attached to the press release and can also be accessed at www.sigov.org.

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