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Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:28 AM
To: 'jhartmann@countyofsb.org'; 'president@visitguadalupe.org'; 'treasurer@visitguadalupe.org'
Cc: 'jlitten@countyofsb.org'; 'ahernandez@countyofsb.org'
Subject: Letter to Supervisor Hartmann from Guadalupe Business Association re: Health Department inspections
Attachments: 20201208_GBA Letter to Sup Hartmann re SBCo Environmental Health Inspection.pdf

Supervisor Hartmann,

Please find attached to this e-mail a letter from the Guadalupe Business Association regarding our desire to engage with the Santa Barbara County Health Department on restaurant inspections. As an association, our primary goal in contacting you is to find ways to improve the business environment for all of our members and our community through a better understanding of the Health Department's processes and all processes for new and existing businesses. The struggle of just one restaurant indicates the County has some work ahead of itself. Especially in today's business climate, businesses need clear, concise, affordable, and accessible guidance to build and maintain their facilities. We need to feel comfortable that an investment in Guadalupe is just as valuable as one Santa Maria or Montecito.

(Please view this e-mail in HTML format to access the links within the text.)

We believe the County can eliminate capricious application of inspection criteria by better maintaining a one-stop source for "How to Start a Restaurant in Santa Barbara County" that goes beyond "here's a Link to California Code, figure it out yourself" or "to find the details you better be really good at Google searches". For example, San Diego County's Department of Environmental Health has a very practical guide to Water Heater Sizing Guidelines ([link here](#)) that very clearly states the hot water requirements for a restaurant. Although SBC Public Health has a Water Heater Sizing Calculations guide ([link here](#)), it is not linked on the EHS "Opening a Food Facility" page ([link here](#)), nor on the Plan Check Application ([link here](#)).

While every county government is different and difficult to navigate, information about opening a food facility in both Santa Barbara and San Diego County is actually just one click away after searching for "open a restaurant" in their respective web sites. San Diego County, however, has made the Water Heater Sizing Guidelines just two additional and intuitive clicks into its website ([link here](#) and [here](#)). We had to search specifically for "Santa Barbara County Water Heater Sizing" to get to the appropriate guide – and it was not obviously linked anywhere within the PHD/EHS site specifically meant to guide restaurants through the requirements.

All businesses in the County would benefit from clear, concise, and – our primary concern here – accessible guidelines. Simple and equitable fixes can go a long way to ensuring the twin goals of economic development and public health. We look forward to continuing a dialogue you've already been engaged in, and your continued role facilitating improvements in the County's public-facing departments. Please contact us at your convenience to discuss this matter further and to connect us with the County Public Health Department to address our concerns and solutions.

Very Respectfully, on behalf of the Guadalupe Business Association Board of Directors,

Eric Larson
LtCol, USAF, Retired

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