

June 17, 2020



Dear Manzanita City Council, Mayor,

The Manzanita Farmers Market respectfully requests that the Manzanita City Council address the Market's inquiry about changing some of the restrictions on the operating scenario of the Market as promptly as possible. The operating scenario that the Market is using was approved on April 27, 2020. It is now June 17, and while the pandemic is still very present, serious, and concerning, in the intervening time a number of other things have changed and Tillamook County is now in Phase 2 of reopening. Meanwhile the Market is being held to an operating scenario that is notably stricter than even the strictest of operating scenarios allowed at the state level for Oregon farmers markets throughout the State of Emergency and Stay at Home orders that have since been lifted.

This is an urgent matter because every week that passes represents a significant loss in income for the Market's farm vendors operating in this highly restricted way. Farm business income losses are particularly time sensitive since farms are dependent on summer growing conditions, and a farmers market that operates only 15 weeks out of the year. One of the Market vendors wrote a letter to the Manzanita City Council which describes their perspective, which is in line with what the Market has heard from a number of other current Market vendors (Attachment: *MFM Letter\_from Virginia Edwards.pdf*).

Last year, in 2019, the Manzanita Farmers Market hosted over 100 different local businesses and organizations at the farmers market where those vendors were able to bring in a cumulative total of over \$330,000 in sales. That is a substantial amount of money going directly into the hands of local farm, food, and artisan businesses to support themselves, and which in turn has even greater benefit through the local multiplier effect on our local economy.

The Manzanita Farmers Market would like to present a plan to the City Council that accommodates, and exceeds, meeting all of the precautions currently required at the state level in Oregon, plus all of the recommendations approved by the Oregon Department of Agriculture in the current document from the Oregon Farmers Markets Association (Attachment: *OFMA COVID 19 Resources\_06.17.2020download.pdf*). In short, the Market proposes continuing "curbside" pickup, and adding walk-in on-site sales at the City parking lot.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Vollmer", written in a cursive style.

Emily Vollmer  
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