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November 10, 2021

Mayor Cowan & City of Winters Council Members
318 1st St.
Winters Ca, 95694

Dear Mayor Cowan and City Council,

November 9th 2021 the Winters Downtown Business Association board of directors discussed the Main Street closure at length. The street closure, which was passed under temporary emergency act in spring of 2020 by then City Manager Mr. Donlevy and has been extended by the Council, has had a huge positive impact on the entire downtown for the last year and a half. During the fall and winter of 2020 outdoor dining was the only option for many of the downtown restaurant businesses. During the spring and summer months of 2021 the outdoor gathering area and closed area of Main St. during weekend have become a staple draw to the downtown area and hub of activity. These outdoor spaces are now an important element to what is making our downtown area a local destination for residents and visitors alike. While these outdoor gathering areas and the street closure do have a significant net benefit to the downtown and to the City of Winters, however here are drawbacks and impacts to some local businesses and residents in the downtown area. The street closure on weekend in particular changes circulation in the downtown area. Often impacting residents on Russell St. and the street closures make access to the mid block-1st St. area difficult thus impacting nearby businesses. With progress to the Covid Pandemic, business in 2021 now have open retail and indoor dining as an option that was not available a year ago. As a result we have experienced a reduction in pedestrian use of the street closure area on Main St. on weekends during the colder and wetter months of the year. We feel that the street closure area which is extremely important to the vitality of the downtown during warmer months, does not provide the same benefit as it does during colder months.

As a result we, the Downtown Business Association is recommending that for the remainder of 2021-winter season we propose leaving the street open to traffic from December 13th 2021 through February 2022. The Winters Downtown Business Association is currently working a 2022 plan that will address the correct time frame to reinstate the street closure schedule as well as an annual schedule consistent schedule. This future proposal we hope will provide the constancy need for the businesses and public to understand the beginning and end of the "street closure season" on an annual basis. Where we are confident we can find the balance of use of public resource to the

maximum during the warm season and minimize the impact the businesses, residents and the public during the colder season. We look forward to sharing our thoughts and proposals with the Council in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Chris Turkovich

President: Winters Downtown Business Association