



Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Pierson and the Honorable Members of the City Council

Prepared by: Lisa Soghor, Assistant City Manager

Approved by: Reva Feldman, City Manager

Date prepared: July 22, 2020 Meeting date: August 10, 2020

Subject: Update on City Facilities

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive and file report on the status of City facilities during COVID-19.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action. Funding for the operation of City facilities was included in the Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. If additional funding is needed to operate City facilities pursuant to COVID-19 safety protocols, a budget amendment will be presented to the Council as part of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 mid-year budget process in January.

WORK PLAN: This item was not included in the Adopted Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

DISCUSSION: On March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency in response to the increased spread of COVID-19. Additionally, on March 4, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Department of Public Health all declared a local and public health emergency in response to the increased spread of COVID-19 across the country and in Los Angeles County. The President of the United States declared a major disaster for California for the COVID-19 pandemic on March 22, 2020.

The City activated its Emergency Operations Center on March 12, 2020. The City's Director of Emergency Services, in accordance with Malibu Municipal Code Section 2.52.060, proclaimed the existence of a local emergency on March 14, 2020. On March 16, 2020, the Council adopted Resolution No. 20-14 ratifying the Director's Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency issued on March 14, 2020. The Resolution established the powers, functions, and duties of the Director of Emergency Services

shall be those prescribed by State law and by the ordinances and resolutions of the City. On March 19, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order N-33-20 ordering all residents of California to stay home except as needed to maintain the operations of critical infrastructure sectors. The Los Angeles County Health Officer issued a series of orders that mirrored and expanded on this Order, including on March 21, 2020, that (1) prohibit all public and private group events and gatherings, and (2) orders all persons to remain in their homes except to travel to and from Essential Businesses, to work at a Healthcare Operation or Essential Infrastructure, to engage in Essential Activities, or to participate in an individual or family outdoor activity, while practicing social distancing. All of the following were ordered closed immediately: (1) non-essential retail businesses, (2) indoor malls and shopping centers (including both essential and non-essential businesses within, except essential businesses that can be accessed from the exterior of the building), (3) indoor and outdoor playgrounds, flea markets and swap meets, and (4) bars and nightclubs that do not serve food, gyms and fitness centers, movie theaters, live performance theaters, concert halls, arenas, stadiums, bowling alleys, arcades, and wineries, breweries, and tap rooms that provide tastings. On-site dining was prohibited at restaurants and other food facilities. The City is subject to the orders of the County Health Official.

On April 14, 2020, the State presented its Resilience Roadmap, a four-stage plan for modifying the State Public Health Officer's stay-at-home order. On May 4, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order N-60-20, which informed local health jurisdictions and industry sectors that they may gradually reopen under new modifications and guidance provided by the State per the May 7, 2020 Public Health Order. The announcement provided a new framework to allow counties to move more quickly through Stage 2 if they attest that they meet the State's readiness criteria. The May 7, 2020 Public Health Order described an attestation opportunity for counties to move through Stage 2, opening additional sectors of their economy at their own pace. To qualify, counties must attest that hospitalization and test positivity rates are stable or declining; that they have a significant level of preparedness with testing, contact tracing, personal protective equipment (PPE) and hospital surge; and that they have adequate plans related to countywide containment. Allowing this initial approach to move forward for approximately 10-14 days allowed the State and counties to see the early impact of these modifications to the statewide Stay-at-Home order. On May 18, 2020, State public health leaders announced a new attestation process, which includes criteria important for larger, more densely populated counties such as the County of Los Angeles. To qualify, counties must attest that hospitalization and test positivity rates are stable or declining; that they have a significant level of preparedness with testing, contact tracing, PPE and hospital surge; and that they have adequate plans related to countywide containment. The County of Los Angeles has also established a roadmap to recovery from the coronavirus pandemic which includes a phased approach for the safe reopening of Los Angeles County.

On May 26, 2020, as part of this phased reopening strategy, the County of Los Angeles issued a new Health Order easing restrictions on certain activities including in-person faith-based services and retail shopping with certain safety protocols including capacity limitations while continuing to encourage all County residents to remain in their residences whenever practicable and for people 65 years old or older and anyone with underlying health conditions to remain in their residences as much as possible, leaving their residences only when necessary to seek medical care, exercise, or obtain food or other necessities. On May 29, 2020, the State approved the County's application to move into advanced Stage 2.

On June 12, 2020, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health announced a Revised Health Officer Order in effect countywide, including Malibu, which included the re-opening of day camps, gyms and fitness centers, spectator-free professional sports, museums, tourist facilities, campgrounds, and entertaining production.

On June 18, 2020, the Order was modified even further to allow for nail salons, tattoo shops, casinos, bars and wineries to open with limited capacity and infection control safeguards. The County also created industry-specific reopening protocols for sectors, including parks and recreational facilities, that have been permitted to reopen by requiring these spaces to implement specific safety protocols implementing social distancing and cleaning/sanitized measures to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

On June 28, 2020, due to a spike in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, the State and the County amended the previous orders to require that all bars, breweries, wineries and tasting rooms close unless they offered dine-in, sit-down meals. The County stated that the timing of the spike in new cases was in line with the opening of these sectors. When these sectors were closed, there were 1,350 to 1,450 daily hospitalizations in Los Angeles County. But after two weeks, the number of people hospitalized in Los Angeles increased by more than 20 percent and the 7-day average daily positivity rate in Los Angeles County increased from 5.8% to 8.7%.

In addition to the amended order that closed bars and breweries, the Los Angeles County Public Health Officer issued orders to close all beaches, beach parking lots, bike paths, piers, and access ways countywide, including Malibu, effective Friday, July 3, 2020 through Monday, July 6, 2020, to prevent crowding over the holiday and slow the spread of COVID-19. Surfing, walking, jogging, kayaking, paddle-boarding or any other recreational activities or gatherings were also prohibited at any State or County beach. The revised order also prohibited all private and public fireworks countywide.

On July 1, 2020, the County backtracked even further closing indoor dining, indoor museums, zoos and aquariums, and card rooms. The Los Angeles County Health Officer also required businesses with three or more confirmed cases in the workplace to report it to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

On July 13, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom announced that counties on the State's Monitoring List for three consecutive days, which includes Los Angeles County, must also close indoor operations at fitness centers, places of worship, indoor protests, offices for non-critical infrastructure sectors, personal care services, hair salons and barbershops, and malls, unless they can be modified to operate outside or by pick-up.

To illustrate the increase in cases since restrictions were eased, on June 18, 2020, when the Public Health Order was modified to allow for nail salons, tattoo shops, casinos, bars and wineries to open, new cases of COVID-19 were averaging less than 1,500 per day. Since that time, the average number of new cases per day has increased to double that, with 3,266 reported on July 22, 2020. In addition, hospitalizations on June 18, 2020 were listed at 1,429, but since July 8, 2020, the number of people hospitalized has been over 2,000 every day.

The following is the status of City facilities during COVID-19:

City Hall

City Hall was closed to the public on March 16, 2020, and most staff were directed to work from home. Staff who were assigned to the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) continued to work from both City Hall and remote locations, and other essential City activities, such as Public Works, Building Safety and Code Enforcement, continued to be provided. As of the date of this report, City Hall is open by appointment only.

On June 17, 2020, the City announced new digital and online services in order to make it easier and safer for residents to access City Hall services during the ongoing pandemic, including an online scheduling system for in-person appointments, and physical distancing measures, such as Plexiglas shields, rigorous sanitation procedures, and limitations on the number of staff and public that can be inside City Hall at one time, to protect the health and safety of the public and staff.

In addition, to ensure that City Hall remains safe for visitors and staff, a COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan was developed and all City staff have been trained on the policies and procedures that are included in the plan.

Senior Center (City Hall)

On March 16, 2020, the Senior Center was closed and remains closed as of this date. City staff have implemented a Virtual Recreation Center with programming for older adults and staff continues to call senior center participants on a regular basis.

Legacy Park

On May 15, 2020, the City opened Legacy Park with physical distancing and safety guidelines.

Las Flores Creek Park

On May 15, 2020, the City opened Las Flores Creek Park with physical distancing and safety guidelines. The playground remains closed.

Trancas Canyon Park and Dog Park

On May 15, 2020, the City opened Trancas Canyon Park with physical distancing and safety guidelines. The Dog Park and temporary restrooms are open. Permanent restrooms remain closed due to damage sustained during the Woolsey Fire and will remain closed while the City resolves a claim with its insurance carrier, California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding damage to the irrigation system and hillside slope.

Equestrian Park

On May 15, 2020, the City opened the Equestrian Park with physical distancing and safety guidelines.

Bluffs Park and Temporary Skate Park

On May 15, 2020, the City opened the Multipurpose Field and restrooms at Bluffs Park with physical distancing and safety guidelines. The playground, gathering areas, athletic fields, athletic facilities and indoor facilities remain closed.

On July 3, 2020, following the completion of construction, the Temporary Skate Park was opened. The City implemented guidelines from the County of Los Angeles for the Skate Park, including a limited capacity of twelve skaters (one skater per 1,000 square feet of skating area) at a time, a reservation system that provided for six reservation spaces and six walk-up spaces per hour, and requirements for spectators to wear masks and maintain a minimum of six feet from persons not from their household. Pursuant to County guidelines, skaters are not required to wear masks while skating in a skate park.

Shortly after the opening, the City began to experience issues with members of the public using the Skate Park, including people refusing to wear a mask or face covering when not actively skating, individuals jumping the fence and refusing to leave when asked by City staff and people congregating in groups. Several members of the public were hostile, threatening, and confrontational with City staff, resulting in City staff requesting assistance from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department multiple times every day.

Additionally, large groups were routinely utilizing the Multipurpose Field at Bluffs and failing to follow the physical distancing and safety guidelines.

On July 11, 2020, in order to protect the health and safety of visitors and City staff, Malibu Bluffs Park and the Temporary Skate Park was temporarily closed, and, as of the date of this report, remain closed. It is anticipated that these facilities will reopen when

the County resumes its reopening process. When the Skate Park reopens, staff will implement an updated operating plan, utilizing the following guidelines:

Hours of Operation

- Monday – Friday: 12:00 p.m – 8:00 p.m.
- Closed on Saturdays and Sundays until the fall
- By reservation only, no walk-ups (maximum capacity 12)

Staffing Plan

- One part-time staff member on-site during operating hours
- One private security guard on-site during operating hours
- One full-time staff member at the Michael Landon Center

Code of Conduct

- Outline expectations for skaters when using the park and consequences for failure to follow expectations, including suspension of skate park privileges
- Attendees must accept the terms of the Code of Conduct when making a reservation
- Posted at facility

Additional Adjustments

- Skate park-specific training with staff geared towards interacting with skaters
- Consistent staffing so that skaters and parents become familiar with staff members each time they come to the skate park
- Additional signage and social media outreach to educate the public regarding Covid-19 guidelines and skate park rules
- Shade areas on the outside of the skate park spaced at least six feet away from each other to deter parents and groups from gathering
- Implementation of a Peer Skater Program, which will utilize local skaters to assist staff with educating new skaters regarding skate park rules and etiquette

The cost estimate to staff the Skate Park, including the private security guard, at the above-listed levels will be approximately \$7,000 a month. There is sufficient funding in the budget to provide this level of staffing through December 2020. If this level of additional staffing is needed from January 2021 to June 2021, an appropriation from the General Fund Undesignated Reserve and a budget amendment will be needed.

Malibu Community Pool

The Malibu Community Pool, located at Malibu High School, was re-opened on July 11, 2020, with limited programming and COVID-19 safety guidelines in place. Swimming programs are available by registration only.

ATTACHMENTS: None.