PRESS RELEASE
August 21, 2020

PACIFICA WEEKEND BEACH CLOSURES

Pacifica, CA Due to the wildfire emergency in San Mateo County and resulting unhealthy air quality, all Pacifica beaches and beach parking lots will be closed from sunrise Saturday, August 22nd to sunrise Monday, August 24th.

High inland temperatures over recent weekends are expected to continue this weekend, drawing crowds to coastal beaches. The current wildfire emergency in San Mateo County has increased the need to keep roadways clear for emergency vehicle traffic responding to the fire scenes and to facilitate continual evacuations. It is anticipated that crowds travelling to the beach areas could potentially interfere with emergency operations.

In addition to traffic concerns, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District has issued a Spare the Air Alert through Sunday, August 23rd, due to unhealthy air caused by wildfire smoke. Anticipated beach crowds would likely be negatively affected by air quality. Anticipated crowds also may contribute to the spread of COVID19.

It is therefore necessary to close Pacifica beaches and beach parking lots to protect the public health and safety, to discourage travel to beaches located within Pacifica and reduce crowding and traffic congestion to ensure access for emergency response vehicles and evacuations south of Pacifica due to the uncontained wildfires.

Specifically, the following beaches and beach parking lots will be closed in Pacifica:

- Pacifica State Beach (Linda Mar Beach) and north and south parking lots,
- Crespi parking lot in front of the Pacifica Community Center,
- Rockaway Beach and north and south parking lots,
- Sharp Park Beach
- Esplanade Beach and Fisherman’s Lot in the 800 block of Palmetto Avenue
The Coastal Trail, Mori Point hiking trails, Beach Boulevard Promenade, and Pacifica Pier will remain open for visitors to enjoy while practicing health protective measures such as wearing your mask and physically distancing six feet apart to help prevent the spread of COVID19.

City officials in Half Moon Bay have also closed their beaches and beach parking from sunrise Friday morning to sunrise Monday morning.

“It is unfortunate that these weekend closures need to occur,” says Pacifica Mayor Deirdre Martin, “but this public safety measure is appropriate for the safety of the community.”

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES RELATING TO TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF BEACHES AND BEACH PARKING FACILITIES TO THE PUBLIC FROM SUNRISE ON AUGUST 22, 2020 TO SUNRISE ON AUGUST 24, 2020 WITHIN PACIFICA DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS AND FIRES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC (ORDER NO. 2020-2-01) can be viewed on the City’s website https://www.cityofpacifica.org/.

Daniel Steidle
Chief of Police

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PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO EXTREME
WEATHER CONDITIONS AND FIRES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, Government Code section 8630 and section 4-2.01 et seq. of the
Pacifica Municipal Code empower the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the
existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the City Council is not in
session, subject to confirmation by the City Council at the earliest possible time; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager is the Director of Emergency Services of the City
of Pacifica; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2020, the San Mateo County Health Officer declared a
Local Health Emergency pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 101080 based on
the imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of the novel
coronavirus ("COVID-19") in San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, on or about March 4, 2020, as part of the State of California’s
response to address the global COVID-19 outbreak, Governor Gavin Newsom declared
a State of Emergency to make additional resources available, formalize emergency
actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the
State prepare for broader spread of COVID-19 following one official COVID-19 death; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the City Manager in his capacity as Director of
Emergency Services, issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency due to the global
pandemic resulting from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Proclamation of Local Emergency was
ratified by the City Council through Resolution No. 18-2020; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Health Officer has issued a number of Health
Orders to protect the health and safety of people since declaring a Local Health
Emergency, including Health Order No. c19-11 superseding previous Shelter-in-Place
Orders and aligning the County with the State Shelter Order/Resilience Roadmap and
limiting public and private gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the State Public Health Officer and Director has also issued a
number of Health Orders since the State declared a State of Emergency, including a
Statewide Public Health Officer Order dated July 13, 2020 regarding certain events and
activities and continuing to limit gatherings and requiring social distancing and face
coverings; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2020, the San Mateo County Health Officer declared a
Local Health Emergency pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 101080 based on
the imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of the novel
coronavirus ("COVID-19") in San Mateo County; and

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a State of Emergency to make additional resources available, formalize emergency
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the State prepare for broader spread of COVID-19 following one official COVID-19
death; and

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WHEREAS, the State Public Health Officer and Director has also issued a
number of Health Orders since the State declared a State of Emergency, including a
Statewide Public Health Officer Order dated July 13, 2020 regarding certain events and
activities and continuing to limit gatherings and requiring social distancing and face
coverings; and

WHEREAS, the City continues to feel the effects of COVID-19 and the period of
Local Emergency has been extended due to the ongoing pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, the City is experiencing another
type of crisis that is happening State-wide due to extreme weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, beginning on August 14, 2020, the State of California began
experiencing an extreme heat event, causing record-breaking temperatures and Red
Flag Warnings throughout California; and

WHEREAS, on August 16, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a State of
Emergency to exist in California due to the “Extreme Heat Event”; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the fire conditions being exacerbated by extreme
temperatures, the weather event has resulted in widespread lightning strikes, sparking
fires throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, there are currently hundreds of fires actively burning during these
extreme weather conditions throughout California, which have collectively burned tens
of thousands of acres; and

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2020, the Governor of the State of California issued a
Proclamation of a State of Emergency due to the fires burning statewide; and

WHEREAS, extremely high temperatures and dry conditions are expected to
continue, which will further increase the spread of fires State-wide and likely result in
additional wildfires, further exacerbating the current wildfire situation in California; and
WHEREAS, in addition to the high temperatures, the San Francisco bay area has also experienced, and they continue to be forecasted in the coming days, significant lightning storms; and

WHEREAS, fires in the southern portion of San Mateo County (collectively referred to as the CZU August Lightning Complex Fires), which appear to have been caused by lightning strikes related to atypical weather patterns, have given rise to conditions of disaster and extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, the CZU August Lightning Complex Fires have burned approximately 10,000 acres and continue to threaten communities and property in southern San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, within San Mateo County, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection ("Cal Fire") has issued evacuation orders for the communities of Loma Mar and Deer Park, as well as areas in the vicinity of Pescadero Creek County Park and the Butano area; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2020, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors issued Proclamation 4292 declaring a Local Emergency due to the CZU August Lightning Complex Fires and the mobilization of local resources and the ability to coordinate interagency response; and

WHEREAS, due to the extreme weather and ongoing fires and ongoing pandemic conditions, it is necessary that the City be able to accelerate procurement of vital supplies, to use mutual aid, immediately address health and safety needs, and to allow for future reimbursement by State and federal governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Pacifica Director of Emergency Services finds that:

A. As a result of the foregoing Recitals, which are hereby incorporated as findings, I have determined that extreme weather conditions and fires constitute a threat to community health and warrant a proclamation of a Local Health Emergency; and

B. Conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within the City caused by the extreme weather conditions that are being experienced including extreme heat and lightning and that the wild fires are ongoing in San Mateo County and threaten to start in new areas due to the extreme weather; and

C. To compound these threats, the City continues to be in a state of local emergency due to COVID-19, which impact significant City and community operations, including critical public infrastructure and services, and which will require the provision of additional public safety and emergency services; and

D. As contemplated in the Emergency Service Act contained in Government Code Section 8550 et seq., including Section 8558(c) and as defined in PMC 4-2.02, a local emergency exists because of the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the
City of Pacifica caused by the aforesaid conditions and warrant and necessitate the proclamation of a Local Emergency to enable the City of Pacifica and other local government entities to adequately plan, prepare and secure resources to be able to effectively respond to the threat posed by the foregoing conditions and to warn City of Pacifica residents and visitors of the threat posed by the extreme weather and fires and COVID-19 and to enable the City to address these threats; and

E. At the time of this proclamation, the City Council is not in session (and cannot immediately be called into session).

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency exists in accordance with the findings set forth above, commencing on or about the time and date of the signature of the Director of Emergency Services below.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of this local emergency, the powers, functions and duties of the emergency organization of this City shall be those prescribed by State law, by ordinances, including PMC section 4-2.01 et seq., and resolutions of this City, and by the City’s Continuity of Operations Plan.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that this local emergency shall continue to exist until ratified by the City Council. The City Council shall terminate the local emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

IT IS REQUESTED that the Governor of the State of California include the City of Pacifica in any emergency declaration by the State; ensure the City of Pacifica is included in any emergency declaration that may be issued by the President of the United States of America; waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts; and make available California Disaster Act and State Private Nonprofit Organizations Assistance Program funding and any other applicable funding.

Date and time: 04/1/2022, 5:00am  By: ____________________________
Kevin Woodhouse, Director of Emergency Services

ATTEST:
______________________________
Sarah Coffey, City Clerk
ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES RELATING TO TEMPOARY CLOSURE OF BEACHES AND BEACH PARKING FACILITIES TO THE PUBLIC FROM SUNRISE ON AUGUST 22, 2020 TO SUNRISE ON AUGUST 24, 2020 WITHIN PACIFICA DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS AND FIRES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC (ORDER NO. 2020-2-01)

WHEREAS, Government Code section 8630 and section 4-2.01 et seq. of the Pacifica Municipal Code empower the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the City Council is not in session, subject to confirmation by the City Council at the earliest possible time; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager is the Director of Emergency Services of the City of Pacifica; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2020, the San Mateo County Health Officer declared a Local Health Emergency pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 101080 based on the imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") in San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, on or about March 4, 2020, as part of the State of California’s response to address the global COVID-19 outbreak, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the state prepare for broader spread of COVID-19 following one official COVID-19 death; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the City Manager in his capacity as Director of Emergency Services, issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency due to the global pandemic resulting from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Proclamation of Local Emergency was ratified by the City Council through Resolution No. 18-2020; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Health Officer has issued a number of Health Orders to protect the health and safety of people since declaring a Local Health Emergency, including Health Order No. c19-11 superseding previous Shelter-in-Place Orders and aligning the County with the State Shelter Order/Resilience Roadmap and limiting public and private gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the State Public Health Officer and Director has also issued a number of Health Orders since the State declared a State of Emergency, including a Statewide Public Health Officer Order dated July 13, 2020 regarding certain events and activities and continuing to limit gatherings and requiring social distancing and face coverings; and
WHEREAS, the City of Pacifica continues to feel the effects of COVID-19 and the period of Local Emergency has been extended due to the ongoing pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, the City of Pacifica is experiencing another type of crisis that is happening State-wide due to extreme weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, beginning on August 14, 2020, the State of California began experiencing an extreme heat event, causing record-breaking temperatures and Red Flag Warnings throughout California; and

WHEREAS, on August 16, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California due to the “Extreme Heat Event”; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the fire conditions being exacerbated by extreme temperatures, the weather event has resulted in widespread lightning strikes, sparking fires throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, there are currently hundreds of fires actively burning during these extreme weather conditions throughout California, which have collectively burned tens of thousands of acres; and

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2020, the Governor of the State of California issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency due to the fires burning statewide; and

WHEREAS, extremely high temperatures and dry conditions are expected to continue, which will further increase the spread of fires statewide and likely result in additional wildfires, further exacerbating the current wildfire situation in California; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the high temperatures, the San Francisco bay area has also experienced, and they continue to be forecasted in the coming days, significant lightning storms; and

WHEREAS, fires in the southern portion of San Mateo County (collectively referred to as the CZU August Lightning Complex Fires), which appear to have been caused by lightning strikes related to atypical weather patterns, have given rise to conditions of disaster and extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, the CZU August Lightning Complex Fires have burned approximately 10,000 acres and continue to threaten communities and property in southern San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, within San Mateo County, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (“Cal Fire”) has issued evacuation orders for the communities of Loma Mar and Dear Park, as well as areas in the vicinity of Pescadero Creek County Park and the Butano area; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2020, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors issued Proclamation 4292 declaring a Local Emergency due to the CZU August
Lightning Complex Fires and the mobilization of local resources and the ability to coordinate interagency response; and

WHEREAS, due to the summer heat, the City of Pacifica has experienced increased beach attendance on the weekend as people seek a place to escape from the heat and the smoke from the fires; and

WHEREAS, this increase in beach attendance creates significant increases in traffic on the primary highway access to and from the City of Pacifica and on City streets; and

WHEREAS, traffic congestion could hinder emergency response vehicles and evacuations of residents along the coast due to the uncontained wildfires; and

WHEREAS, large gatherings at Pacifica beaches are likely to result in conditions which are conducive to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., the City Manager in his capacity as Director of Emergency Services, issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency due to the extreme weather conditions and fires during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, establishing rules and regulations to temporarily close public beaches and beach parking lots during the period of sunrise on Saturday, August 22, 2020 to sunrise on Monday, August 24, 2020 is necessary to minimize such gatherings, and is therefore necessary to protect the public health and safety, to discourage travel to beaches located within Pacifica and reduce crowding and traffic congestion to ensure access for emergency response vehicles and evacuations south of Pacifica due to the uncontained wildfires; and

WHEREAS, under authority contained in Sections 8610 and 8634 of the Government Code and PMC section 4-2.06(a) the City Manager is empowered, as the Director of Emergency Services, to make and issue rules and regulations on matters reasonably related to the protection of life and property as affected by the emergency; however, such rules and regulations must be confirmed by the City Council at the earliest practicable time; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager is empowered, as the Director of Emergency Services to execute all ordinary powers as City Manager, all the special powers conferred upon him by any statute or agreement approved by the City Council or by any other lawful authority, and, in conformity with the provisions of Section 38791 of the Government Code of the State, to exercise complete authority over the City and all police powers vested in the City by Constitution and general laws of the State; and

WHEREAS, under conditions of the local emergency, it is deemed necessary to impose certain rules and regulations relating to the temporary closure of public beaches in Pacifica as well as beach parking facilities to discourage the gathering of crowds, traffic congestion and to ensure social distancing is maintained and is necessary to protect public safety and health.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Kevin Woodhouse, as Director of Emergency Services of the City of Pacifica, declare that due to the state of local emergency due to extreme weather and wild fires during the COVID-19 pandemic the following rules and regulations are issued:

SECTION 1. The recitals set forth above are incorporated herein as is fully set forth above, and are adopted as findings in support of this Order.

SECTION 2. The following beaches and beach parking facilities are temporarily closed to the public for any and all activities from sunrise on Saturday, August 22, 2020 through sunrise on Monday, August 24, 2020:

- Pacifica State Beach (Linda Mar Beach) and north and south parking lots;
- Crespi Lot (Parking lot in front of the Pacifica Community Center);
- Rockaway Beach and north and south parking lots;
- Sharp Park Beach;
- Esplanade Beach and Fisherman’s Lot in the 800 block of Palmetto Avenue.

SECTION 3. Any violation of this Order shall be subject to enforcement and penalties as provided for in PMC 1-2.01 or may be enforced through any other lawful means, including but not limited to, California Health and Safety Code Sections 101029, 120295, et seq. and 131082; Government Code Section 41601 and Cal. Penal Code Sections 15 and 836.

SECTION 4. This Order shall become effective on the date signed by the Director of Emergency Operations for the City of Pacifica.

SECTION 5. Severability. If any section, subsection, clause, or phrase of this Order is for any reason held to be invalid, such a decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion or section of the Order.

SECTION 6. This order takes precedence over ordinances and resolutions in conflict herewith.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Director of Emergency Services shall request that the City Council confirm this Order at the earliest practicable time.

Date and time: 8/21/2020 5:00 p.m. By: [Signature]

Kevin Woodhouse, Director of Emergency Services

ATTEST:
Sarah Coffey, City Clerk