



Scenic Pacifica
Incorporated Nov. 22, 1957

CITY OF PACIFICA

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April 10, 2020

Pacifica Community Members,

The City of Pacifica continues to work to provide essential City services during the Coronavirus public health crisis and to take actions that protect public health and safety and comply with State and County orders. The City's actions during this time, as well as the efforts of everyone in the community, and especially the efforts of first responders and health care providers, are critical to getting through this crisis as soon as possible.

However, this unprecedented long-lasting pandemic has created, and will continue to exacerbate, disruptions to once previously normal routines in the community for residents, visitors, businesses, non-profits, and local governments. The City of Pacifica's operations are no exception; program and service enhancements and special initiatives and projects that were underway and planned during this time have been and will continue to be disrupted while the City is focused on essential work only during Shelter in Place and Physical Distancing Orders. And uncertainty about the future curve of the Coronavirus, combined with the beginning of an economic recession, make budget and project timeline planning for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and into Fiscal Year 2020-21 challenging.

As Pacifica's City Manager, and as the City's Emergency Services Director, I am providing this update to inform the community about the Coronavirus's impact on the status of numerous City projects and initiatives. For regular updates about our COVID-19 response, make sure to check the City's webpage frequently at www.cityofpacifica.org/about/coronavirus/default.asp. Also, if you haven't already, consider signing up for the City's weekly newsletter "Connect with Pacifica" here at www.cityofpacifica.org/government/city_manager/cwp.

BACKGROUND

It has been six weeks since the City began first disseminating information about preventative measures to prevent the spread of the virus, and it has been more than three weeks since the County's Shelter in Place Order. I am proud of how City employees have risen to the occasion in their Disaster Service Worker roles during this time, and how quickly and flexible the organization has been in implementing the City's Continuity of Operations Plan to redesign as necessary and continue essential operations, and enable many employees to be able to work remotely to continue progress on important City projects. While we have been focused primarily on our response to the Coronavirus, progress is still being made on many other important projects by City staff who are able to conduct their work remotely and safely. However, City staff capacity has been temporarily reduced by 24% overall due to the health orders and essential services focus. Therefore, the City's capacity to handle ordinary non-essential non-urgent business items has been impacted.

Due to the Shelter in Place and Physical Distancing Orders, City Council meetings have temporarily transitioned to 100% virtual meetings and are limited to essential business items. Public input at these meetings is occurring through alternative electronic methods. This is the case for all cities in the County and beyond. As a result of not being able to hold meetings with in-person public comment, for now the City Council would prefer to postpone consideration of major initiatives until it is safe to allow in-person public engagement and input. This preference also applies to City Commissions and Committees; any such meetings held are necessarily focused on essential business items only during this crisis. Therefore, numerous projects and initiatives, as described below, have been disrupted until the City can safely hold in-person meetings. In addition, the negative economic impact of this health crisis is also a significant disruptor to some projects and initiatives.

Project/Initiative Status

Annual City Council Goal-setting: The normal all-day Council goal-setting session to develop priorities for Fiscal Year 2020-21 was cancelled. However, most of the current City Council priorities are continuing into FY2020-21, and constitute a robust workplan for this coming year. The City Council will consider affirming this list of priorities along with two priorities that have arisen mid-year – evaluation of the City’s tree program and addressing Civic Center facilities health and safety issues – as part of the budget process kick-off at the April 27 City Council meeting.

Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget Development: Staff continues to prepare for budget hearings to begin at the April 27 Council meeting. This year’s budget development schedule will be slightly condensed, and will be challenging due to significant revenue decreases due to Coronavirus impacts and uncertainties related to the anticipated recession. As of today, the City is forecasting revenue decreases of approximately \$1.5 Million just through the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2020) due to the impact of COVID-19. This represents a significant financial challenge to the City, the equivalent of approximately 16% of quarterly revenue.

2212 Beach Blvd. Hotel Site Development: The schedule for the Council-directed RFQ/RFP for hotel development will be impacted by the Coronavirus and anticipated recession, as well as the Sharp Park Specific Plan schedule (see below). Staff will monitor these impacts to determine the best timing for proceeding.

Sharp Park Specific Plan: Due to the importance of this plan, and public interest in it, Planning Commission consideration of the SPSP, and subsequent City Council consideration, is delayed until in-person public comment is safe.

General Plan Update: Due to the importance of this plan, and public interest in it, the General Plan will also be delayed until in-person public comment is safe.

Over-Sized Vehicle Ordinance: The City Council adopted this ordinance in January, with an effective date of March 31, 2020. Operational impacts of the Coronavirus will impact the timeline for installing signage and being able to enforce the ordinance. Originally, enforcement was scheduled to occur end-of-June/early-July, with the Police Department providing warnings for a 30-day period, thus citations not beginning until approximately August 1. However, the Coronavirus impact will delay citations until September 1 at earliest, depending on when signage can be manufactured and installed.

Additionally, the development of a permit parking program for the unhoused in motorhomes, run through the Pacifica Resource Center, as well as a permit program for loading and unloading of residents' recreational vehicles, is also delayed until in-person public comment is safe.

Related, and as was communicated during the Ordinance hearings, as the City eventually funds and implements Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan bike lane improvements along some street segments, those segments may no longer be wide enough to safely allow parking of over-sized vehicles. Some groups of residents continue to express concerns about motorhomes on streets, such as along Terra Nova Boulevard, similar to complaints about motorhomes that have been on-going for years in many other places in Pacifica. As Public Works resources permit during this time of health crisis and focus on essential services, staff will be evaluating bike lane project prioritization and City Engineer safety determinations about line-of-sight issues along street segments, including Terra Nova. Since Terra Nova is one of the street segments scheduled for slurry-seal resurfacing this year as part of the City's street paving program, it is a likely candidate to prioritize bike lane striping at the same time. However, the timeline for these improvements are to be determined based on Public Works resource impacts from the Coronavirus and City budget decisions.

New Libraries: The community education/information campaign phase of this project has been temporarily disrupted due to Coronavirus impacts. Staff will continue to assess the best timing for proceeding with this initiative.

Vision 2025: Staff scoping and preparation for this project can proceed during this time, however launching of this initiative, which is envisioned to include significant public engagement, is delayed until in-person public engagement can safely occur. This strategic planning effort will also be largely informed by the anticipated recession.

Beach Blvd. Seawall and Promenade and Esplanade Infrastructure Preservation Projects: These essential infrastructure projects, which are in feasibility/design/permitting phases, are proceeding as close to schedule as possible, with slight delays due to Public Works Engineering staff resource priority impacts from the health orders.

Streets Paving Projects: These essential infrastructure projects, repaving of part of Manor Drive and slurry seal projects throughout the City, are proceeding as close to schedule as possible, with slight delays due to Public Works Engineering staff resource priority impacts from the health orders.

Housing Initiatives: The City's multi-faceted approach to housing initiatives is continuing, with Planning Department staff's ability to work remotely under the health orders. However, the health orders have disrupted some current construction activity.

Climate Action Plan Update: The City's work to update the Climate Action Plan is underway, but has been delayed previous to Coronavirus impacts due to challenges in recruiting a limited term management analyst to assist with this work due to Planning Department staffing constraints.

Other Projects: Several other projects/initiatives that are currently delayed because they do not qualify as essential business during the current health orders include items such as updating the nuisance ordinance to accommodate bee-keeping, considering action related to flavored tobacco/E-cigarettes, and evaluating the safe and sane fireworks program.

These updates cover many, but not all, of the FY2020-21 City Council Priorities. For a more detailed list of priorities, but reflecting pre-COVID-19 health order impact schedules, please visit

www.cityofpacifica.org/government/councilgoals.asp. An important caveat about the above updates is that the impacts of COVID-19 are evolving weekly, therefore project status is subject to change. If the Shelter in Place Order continues to get extended into summer, the City Council may need to proceed with important business items under a 100% virtual Council meeting format. And depending on the severity of recessionary economic forecasts, project funding and schedules may also be impacted.

Looking Forward

I am thankful and heartened by the Pacifica community's response to this public health crisis, and am especially thankful to the leadership of the Pacifica City Councilmembers and the dedication and hard work of all City employees during this unprecedented public health crisis. Disruptions to well-planned projects and initiatives are very frustrating, both to the organization and to the community for whom the projects and initiatives are intended. However, given the magnitude of this COVID-19 pandemic, in the end small disruptions in the larger scheme will seem insignificant.

The Pacifica City Council and I would like to assure the community that we will get through this disruption and continue forward, as soon as it is safe to do so, with all the major planning and infrastructure projects and program enhancements so critical to the City's future that will enable the Pacifica community to thrive into the future. Post-Coronavirus will undoubtedly be a new version of normal because the impact of this pandemic will have touched the entire community in one way or another – personally or professionally, socially or economically. However, we remain excited and committed to working aggressively to navigate this new version of normal. I am confident that partnerships and ways of doing business collaboratively that are being forged during our region-wide collective response to COVID-19 will have lasting effects as we look to the future. While this pandemic may set us back temporarily, we will in due course roar back stronger as a community.

Stay healthy, stay positive, and I wish you and your loved ones the best during this difficult time.

Sincerely,



Kevin S. Woodhouse
City Manager