



DATE: March 13, 2020
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City of El Cajon PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of El Cajon Declares State of Emergency in Response to Coronavirus

El Cajon, CA - Over the past few days, the City, as well as our residents, has received a tremendous amount of information regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19). The City has been monitoring this public health issue in order to keep our residents and visitors safe. The City has been carefully watching world, U.S., and regional trends relating to COVID-19, coordinating with public health experts at the County of San Diego, and communicating with other government partners.

On March 12, 2020, the California Department of Public Health issued recommendations for essential and non-essential gatherings ([click here to download CDPH Guidance](#)). The County of San Diego, later that day, also released guidance ([click here](#)).

In an effort to ensure public safety and to comply with the directions from the State of California and the County of San Diego, City Manager Graham Mitchell has declared a State of Emergency in the City—the City Council is required to meet and ratify the declaration. A special meeting has been scheduled on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 11:30 A.M. The meeting will be livestreamed so that individuals may attend the meeting remotely.

In addition, the City has implemented the following measures through the end of March:

- 1) The City's recreation dance recital scheduled for this weekend has been canceled;
- 2) Rentals at City facilities with attendance greater than 250 or that do not allow for social distancing of 6' are cancelled or postponed;
- 3) All non-essential programs, as defined by the State and County directives, are canceled including City organized recreation classes, the Safe Routes to School community workshop, and fire station visits;
- 4) Handwashing stations are being secured for gathering places or where the public may come in contact with each other;

- 5) The City has activated a limited Emergency Operation Center (EOC) to ensure the City stays informed with the latest information, to plan for contingencies, and to implement plans if warranted; and
- 6) The March 24th City Council meeting is subject to change.

Because of the fluidity of this health emergency, the City may modify the measures identified in this press release at any time.

The City encourages its residents to stay informed from reliable sources. The following sites are recommended:

[San Diego Public Health COVID-19](#)

[Ready.gov Pandemic Page](#)

[CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

[Heartland Fire and Rescue Alert Page](#)

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PROCLAMATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, section 8.08.060 of the El Cajon Municipal Code empowers the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the City is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity, including an epidemic, and the City Council is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager, as Director of Emergency Services of the City of El Cajon, does hereby find that:

1. Conditions of possible extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within the City of El Cajon, as a result of the world-wide pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus (also referred to as the "Coronavirus:");

2. The COVID-19 virus has reached persons living or visiting San Diego County and has the strong possibility of spreading to the City of El Cajon;

3. Many residents of the City of El Cajon have a transient lifestyle, traveling throughout the San Diego region for work and to conduct daily activities including, but not limited to, recreation, seeking medical assistance, and shopping for essentials and necessities for everyday life activities; the City also hosts a significant population of elderly citizens, particularly in nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities, residential care facilities, and other facilities to house elderly citizens, and also supports a recognizable homeless population, most of whom do not have regular access to medical care of treatment;

4. The City Council of the City of El Cajon is not in session and cannot immediately be called into session.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists throughout the City as a result of the threatened spread of the COVID-19 virus into San Diego County and the City of El Cajon; and

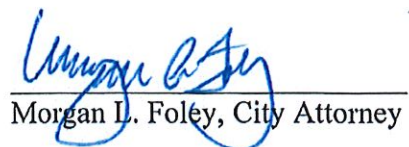
IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency the powers functions, and duties of the emergency organization of this City shall be those prescribed by state law ordinances, and resolutions of this City, and by the City of El Cajon Emergency Plan.

March 13, 2020 12:50 p.m.
Date and Time



Graham Mitchell, Director
of Emergency Services

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Morgan L. Foley, City Attorney