Another week, another round of changes...by now you have all seen that Contra Costa County has extended its shelter-in-place order through May 31, 2020 (details later in this update). Some good news is that certain restrictions have been eased, including allowing for some outdoor activities to resume, such as construction, real estate, landscaping, and some recreational activities. These will go into effect beginning next week.

As a result, our City team is regrouping in preparation for these resumed activities. We are also beginning preparations for additional re-opening of City facilities and programs as we look ahead to the current restrictions being further lessened in the future. We know that we must place the health and safety of everyone—residents, customers, and City employees—as the top priority to consider in every action we take. This will include following the County order with respect to all safety protocols, including implementing social distancing, requiring face coverings, and making sure public spaces and work sites are properly sanitized.

We are looking forward to increased construction activity for both commercial and residential properties and the resulting need for residents and contractors to work with our Community Development staff. Our Recreation Department is diligently preparing to respond to increased recreational opportunities provided by the revised County order and beyond. Moving forward, we may look to implement phased openings of our facilities in order to ensure the safest possible service. Please continue to check out our website at www.el-cerrito.org/covid19 in order to get the most up-to-date information on City services and programs as we roll out these protocols.

The City team remains focused on the financial impacts from the public health emergency as well. The City Council will receive an update at the next City Council meeting on May 5, 2020. Please note that as of the publication of the agenda, City staff is continuing to finalize information for this update, including some cost reduction details that are in progress. This will be provided to the City Council in advance of the meeting in order to provide the most current information and will be posted as a supplemental report on our website prior to the meeting.

Thank you, as always, for your patience, understanding, and compassion as we continue to navigate these uncharted waters. Please stay safe and healthy.

Karen Pinkos
City Manager
City of El Cerrito
Shelter-in-Place Orders Extended through May 31, 2020 as Some Rules Ease

Seven Bay Area Public Health Officers who ordered a shelter in place in mid-March have extended the orders through May 31, while some restrictions are eased and tools to strengthen containment of COVID-19 are put into place. The social distancing intervention has slowed the increase of new cases and prevented the anticipated medical surge. As restrictions are eased, it is critical to ensure that most of the prior Order’s restrictions remain in place.

However, the new Order makes a number of significant changes, which are summarized as follows: Most real estate, construction, landscaping, and outdoor businesses can resume granted that appropriate social distancing protocols and project safety protocols are followed as detailed in the health order.

Additionally, the County Health Officer will consider easing or expanding restrictions based on progress we collectively achieve on several key indicators described in the new Order and referred to as the COVID-19 Indicators.

An executive summary is here and attached: [Current Health Order Executive Order through May 31, 2020](#).

Contra Costa County Opens By-Appointment Drive-Through Testing Sites for COVID-19

Contra Costa residents who have fever, cough, or similar symptoms can make an appointment for free COVID-19 testing at one of four drive-through sites around the county.

The sites are available to anyone, regardless of insurance. Testing is available to people who have symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, coughing, or shortness of breath and fatigue.
Any Contra Costa resident with these symptoms can call 1-844-421-0804 for a confidential screening by a health professional. Telephone screenings will be available from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Screening and appointments are only available by phone. Testing is not available on a walk-in basis.

Patients with appointments must travel in their personal vehicles to their appointments, Testing is done without patients leaving their vehicles. Testing results are available in three to five days.

Subscribe to COVID-19 Email List
If you’d like to receive notices, please go to el-cerrito.org/notifyme and select “Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update”.

Other Agency Links for Service and Information Updates
- Contra Costa Health Services
- California Department of Public Health
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- West Contra Costa Unified School Closures
- AC Transit Service Updates
- BART Service Updates

CITY MANAGEMENT

Regular City Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2020
City Council will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 7 p.m.

During the COVID-19 State of Emergency, and suspension of certain provisions of the Brown Act (Pursuant to Executive Order N-25-20 and N-29-20), City Council meetings will be held remotely, with no physical location for public participation. The public will still have the same ability to listen and view from home.

Public comments can be submitted in one of two ways:

1. Via email to cityclerk@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us
2. Via voicemail at (510) 306-2558

For complete and up-to-date details on how to submit public comments during the COVID-19 State of Emergency, please visit el-cerrito.org/CouncilMeetingMaterials or select this link.
Conducting a Census During a Pandemic
The 2020 Census count kicked off mid-March, right as the Coronavirus pandemic was ramping up. This has required some adjustments to the City’s plans to make sure everyone is counted. As of Tuesday, April 27, 70.7% of El Cerrito residents have submitted their Census forms.

The Census Bureau originally planned to begin sending representatives door-to-door on May 1 to assist those who had not yet submitted their form. That effort has been pushed back and is tentatively expected to begin in June. Census Bureau employees will take precautions to protect themselves and residents, however the Bureau wants to limit in-person contact as much as possible considering the pandemic. Submitting your Census form now will mean one less door-to-door follow-up that is required.

Completing the form is quick and simple and has been extended through October 31. Residents have three options to do so: by mailing in the form sent to their address, visiting My2020Census.gov or calling 844-330-2020. Those who would feel more comfortable completing the survey in a language other than English, have questions, or would like more information may visit 2020Census.gov.

Please help spread the word among constituents, friends and neighbors. To check the city’s progress relative to the rest of the state and the country, visit 2020census.gov/response-rates.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**Building Inspection Update**
Under the revised SIP guidelines, that take effect on Monday, May 4, all construction activities will be allowed to resume with required physical distancing protocols in place. The Building Department staff is currently developing its processes/procedures to re-shift operations and resume inspections while maintaining physical distancing requirements and protocols. For more information, including staff contacts, please visit our website at www.el-cerrito.org/Building.

**East Bay Business Recovery Survey**
Our partners at the East Bay Economic Development Agency (EDA) have developed a Regional
Business Recovery Survey to better understand the needs of small businesses. As business owners and leaders in our region, we ask for your help in gathering crucial information about various impacts to your business so that we can effectively advocate for resources that can address your most important needs. Here is a link to the survey [https://bit.ly/2Vk7osH](https://bit.ly/2Vk7osH). For a list of current available resources and news, check out the EDA’s comprehensive guide by visiting [www.eastbayeda.org](http://www.eastbayeda.org).

**FIRE**

**Vegetation Management Inspections**
In May, the Fire Department will be conducting over 10,000 vegetation inspections throughout El Cerrito and Kensington for compliance with the adopted City Vegetation Management Policy. To help residents, the Fire Department has provided some educational information on Vegetation Management Practices to Reduce Fire Hazards on their properties at the City’s website at [el-cerrito.org/firehazardmitigation](http://el-cerrito.org/firehazardmitigation). Last year the Fire Department issue a record number of violations and was required to have 20 parcels force abated by private contractors to bring the properties into compliance and reduce the fire risk. Initial observations have yielded that many properties are not in compliance, possibly due to confusion about the previous COVID-19 shelter in place order. Fire safety yard work is and will continue to be allowed.

**Arson Fire**
Early Monday morning, the Fire Department responded to a dumpster fire behind 24 Hour Fitness. When the engine arrived, they found a large dumpster burning and a female suspect running from the scene. The fire was contained to the dumpster and the enclosure, and did not extend into the business. With the assistance of the Police Department, the suspect was detained, questioned, and booked at the County jail on arson charges.

**Fire Danger**

While we have experienced some late season precipitation, the annual grasses are starting to dry out and fuel moisture is low for this time of year. This was very evident Monday in the East part of our County when around 2:30 pm a vegetation fire was reported on Bruns Road in Byron. What was reported as a small fire quickly grew (without the help of the Diablo winds) to 120 acres and threatened some homes. This extreme fire activity this early in the year raises caution for the upcoming fire season here in Contra Costa County.
PUBLIC WORKS

**REMINDER - No Need to Push Pedestrian Buttons to Cross Streets at Most City Traffic Signals during COVID-19**

As noted previously, there are more people than ever walking and biking on our local streets. In addition, there are fewer vehicles, given that only “Essential Travel” is permitted. To support the community in staying active and healthy, the City reprogrammed the controllers at most of the 12 City-owned and operated signalized intersections so that they send an automatic call for the “Walk” signal. **Pedestrians do not need to push the button to cross the street at these signalized intersections, and the buttons have been taped off to minimize risk of exposure.**

Drivers should also expect to wait longer at these intersections. Please note that the signals on San Pablo Avenue at and south of Cutting Boulevard are owned and operated by Caltrans and cannot be reprogrammed by the City.

**Bag It at the Car - Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, then Recycle**

Due to the pandemic and efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, many essential businesses are asking the public to not bring their personal bags inside. Since plastic bags are no longer part of our curbside recycling program and are a persistent source of pollution, below are some useful tips to continue to refuse and reuse them where possible to keep from sending them to the landfill.

1) To avoid plastic bags at the register during COVID-19:
   a) Continue to keep reusable bags in your car
   b) When finished at the register, reload your purchased goods loose into the shopping cart to take to your car
   c) Bag your own goods at your car to take them home.

2) When you do receive plastic bags:
   a) Take them back when you are done with them
      i) The State has mandated that plastic bag recycling drop-off bins be made available at large supermarkets and retail stores with a pharmacy. As a result, many grocery stores and retail stores with pharmacies have plastic bag recycling bins in readily accessible locations. Bag drop-off containers can typically be found at the entrance/exit or near the register.

The El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center wants to THANK YOU for staying home as much as possible, for following social distancing protocols, and for wearing your masks when shopping. In addition, for considering how to reduce waste, energy, and water use to live more sustainably, even in this challenging time.
Recycle + Environmental Resource Center Focused on Improvements during Closure

The City’s Recycling Program has continued to provide essential curbside collection services for businesses and residents during the shelter-in-place. The City’s Recycling Drivers are diligently using personal protective equipment (PPE), following social distancing protocols, and have continued to take pride in providing these important services to the community. At the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center, the drop-off facility remains closed to the public, consistent with guidance from the Resource Recovery Coalition of California. However, the core operations staff have continued working behind the scenes to ensure curbside pickup continues to operate seamlessly, while also focusing on deferred maintenance and improvements to the facility.

During this time, yard staff have: cleaned and painted rusting recycling containers at the Center; assembled and provided extra carts for recycling to customers that are generating more waste than usual; removed invasive vegetation (e.g. French Broom) that has been problematic at the facility; and provided in-depth maintenance for the facility’s rain gardens.

Recycling Staff are also focused on making a plan for reopening. When safe and appropriate to do so, the Center will seek to reopen to provide needed drop-off collection services for recyclables. This may include changes in the facility’s operations to maximize social distancing for both staff and customers, with implications for if/how the City operates the Exchange Zone, public counter, and collection of materials that require a facility attendant (e.g. pharmaceuticals). Staff is hopeful that with design changes and proper PPE, the Recycling Center’s core services will be able to be provided, even while implementing strict social distancing practices.

For more information or recycling questions, contact greenassistant@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or (510) 215-4350.

Eureka Avenue and Lexington Avenue Street Improvement Project Update

Construction of the Eureka Avenue and Lexington Avenue Street Improvement Project, repair of Essential Infrastructure, including roadway pavement and sidewalk, is nearly complete. The project is located on Eureka Avenue from Kearney Street to Liberty Street and Lexington Avenue from Eureka Avenue to one block north, and is within two blocks of Fairmont Elementary School, El Cerrito Library, Centennial Park, and the Ohlone Greenway path. Construction, which began in late March, has progressed quickly due to the reduced amount of traffic in the area and is anticipated
Over the last two weeks, the City’s contractor installed the new asphalt pavement layer and a concrete valley gutter. The new traffic striping and signs will be installed over the next two weeks. This includes crosswalks, centerlines, pedestrian crossing signs, and STOP signs, as well as the on-street disabled parking space and crosswalk to serve the recently renovated Centennial Park at the intersection of Liberty Street and Eureka Avenue.

The Eureka Avenue and Lexington Avenue Street Improvement Project is funded by the City’s Measure A Street Improvement funds and SB 1 Local Partnership Program funds and will directly benefit school-age children, current residents, and future residential development by providing safe and accessible walking, biking, and driving routes.

For information or questions on the project, please contact the City’s Engineering Manager/Senior Engineer, Ana Bernardes, at abernardes@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or visit el-cerrito.org/EurekaLexingtonStreetProject.
We Miss You!
Recreation Staff have been taking selfies with different messages to let our community know that we miss you and hope that you are all healthy and safe. Here are some messages from our staff:

![Selfie with Stay Home, Stay Healthy signs](image1)

![Selfie with Disney-themed sign saying Hope to see you real soon](image2)

![Selfie with a thumbs up and Stay Safe sign](image3)

Virtual Recreation: Online Classes for All Ages
The El Cerrito Recreation Department has been working with program instructors to continue providing shared recreation experiences for our community. We are excited to launch our Virtual Recreation pilot program to bring some of our most popular recreation programs to participants digitally! This Virtual Recreation program offers something for youth, teens and adults alike using a variety of techniques such as meeting platforms like Zoom, pre-recorded videos, online instruction and more. To view the Virtual Programs Brochure and see all that is being offered, visit [el-cerrito.org/SpringVirtualProgramming](http://el-cerrito.org/SpringVirtualProgramming).
1-on-1 Senior Tech Help
Do you need technology help during the shelter in place mandate? Our scheduled classes at the Midtown Activity Center have been postponed, but we can still meet digitally! Bring your questions about phones, computer, tablets, etc. We are here to help you make the most of your technology during the COVID crisis.

Click the green link to the right. After you pick a time slot, we'll contact you to determine the best way to connect - Zoom, Skype, Hangouts or just over the phone. Please provide both an email and phone number.

Essential Senior Services
The El Cerrito Recreation Department has been working to continue providing essential services for seniors in our community, including the C.C. Café To-Go Meal delivery program and Easy Ride Paratransit service to grocery stores. To find out more about these programs, email midtown@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call (510) 559-7677.

Casa Cerrito Preschool Graduation & Closure
On Friday, May 29, Casa Cerrito Preschool will hold a virtual graduation ceremony for the students who have been attending this year. Students have been engaged throughout the closure with weekly newsletters from staff and occasional zoom meetings with teachers and school friends. Students will have an opportunity to participate in two zoom rehearsals before the event. Casa Cerrito Preschool was scheduled to close for the summer and that plan is expected to extend to a longer closure due to enrollment issues combined with the public health event.

Subscribe & Follow
It is important to stay connected during this difficult time. For up-to-date information in the El Cerrito Recreation Department, please subscribe to our email newsletter rECnews at el-cerrito.org/recreation
Follow us: Instagram - @ecrecreation | Facebook - @ecrecreation | Twitter - @ElCerritoREC

ATTACHMENTS/FLYERS

- Stop the Spread
- County Health Order Extended through May 31, 2020
- El Cerrito Restaurant List
STOP THE SPREAD

WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY
Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.

MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCING
Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

AVOID TOUCHING EYES, NOSE AND MOUTH
Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth.

IF YOU HAVE A FEVER, COUGH AND DIFFICULTY BREATHING, SEEK MEDICAL CARE EARLY
Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance.

Source: World Health Organization
Executive Summary of May 4, 2020 Shelter Order

This updated Order continues to restrict most activity to essential functions and needs. But because of progress we have collectively achieved in slowing the spread of the disease and limiting hospitalizations, the Order allows certain additional essential businesses and activities to resume, allows certain low-risk outdoor businesses to begin operating again, and authorizes certain additional outdoor activities to take place even though they are not essential. The new Order also introduces a framework to guide the Health Officer’s decisions about further easing of restrictions, focusing on progress achieved addressing COVID-19 and ensuring that there are adequate health care resources available.

This new Order replaces the shelter order issued on March 31, 2020. We refer to the March 31 order as the “Prior Order” and the April 29 Order as the “new Order” or “Order.”

What changes does this new Order make?

This new Order will go into effect on 11:59 pm on Sunday May 3, 2020, and will remain in effect until 11:59 pm on Sunday May 31, 2020, unless the Health Officer amends or extends it.

Most of the Prior Order’s restrictions remain in place. However, the new Order makes a number of significant changes, which are highlighted below:

**Essential Businesses:**

- Under the new Order, all construction projects can resume, provided they comply with the Construction Project Safety Protocols issued as part of the Order. (These protocols replace the COVID-19 Construction Field Safety Guidelines applicable to the Prior Order).

- Commercial as well as residential real estate transactions are allowed to fully resume, but with continued restrictions on in-person viewings and appointments.

- Under the new Order, childcare establishments, summer camps, schools, and other educational and recreational programs can operate to provide care and supervision for children to allow all persons who are working in essential businesses or outdoor businesses or performing minimum basic operations to access childcare. All of these operations must comply with restrictions specified in the Order, including that they be carried out in stable groups of 12 or fewer children. This category is also subject to the State’s Shelter in Place Order, but the Health Officer will assess whether to ease childcare restrictions further in coordination with the State and as the spread of COVID-19 is further contained.
Outdoor Businesses:

- Outdoor Businesses (as defined in the Order and described below) are now allowed to operate, and people are allowed to visit them to perform work or to obtain goods, services, or supplies.

- Outdoor Businesses are those that normally operated primarily outdoors prior to the Shelter in Place Orders, and where social distancing of at least six feet can be maintained between all people. These include outdoor retail businesses like nurseries, outdoor service providers like landscapers, and agricultural operations.

Social Distancing Protocols for Businesses:

- All business facilities operating in the County, including businesses carrying out minimum basic operations, must comply with the requirement to create a Social Distancing Protocol. (Note: construction activities must instead comply with the Construction Project Safety Protocols.)

- In their Social Distancing Protocols, businesses must now ensure that personnel and customers wear face coverings when entering their facilities (except those customers for whom face coverings are not recommended, like very young children).

- All existing Social Distancing Protocols must be updated to reflect the new requirements.

- We encourage businesses that are not yet allowed to operate to focus on planning to effectively implement social distancing and related measures in their facilities so they are ready to safely reopen when allowed.

Essential Activities and Travel:

- All residential moves are now allowed to proceed.

Recreation:

- The new Order allows use of shared outdoor recreational facilities that do not encourage gathering or contain high-touch equipment. However, everyone must follow any restrictions that either state or local authorities impose. For instance, right now, the State Shelter Order prohibits golf courses from operating.

COVID-19 Indicators

- The Health Officer will consider easing or expanding restrictions based on progress we collectively achieve on several key indicators described in the new Order and referred to as the COVID-19 Indicators.
Dine Out El Cerrito

These restaurants offer take out food during the COVID-19 lockdown.
List subject to change. El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce members shown in red.
Check restaurant websites as many provide online ordering and delivery to maintain social distancing.

Bánh Mi Sandwich Deli
10174 San Pablo Ave.
Banana Leaf Thai
11880 San Pablo Ave.
banana leaf elcerrito.com
Baskin Robbins
10598 San Pablo Ave.
baskinrobins.com
Brasil Bistro
11866 San Pablo Ave.
Burger Im
El Cerrito Plaza
burgerim.com
Burger King
6021 Central Ave.
bk.com
Chef’s Chinese
El Cerrito Plaza
Chipotle
Carlson & San Pablo chipotle.com
Church’s Chicken
11575 San Pablo Ave.
churchs.com
Donut Time
10740 San Pablo Ave.
El Cerrito Natural Grocery Annex — wine & beer only
Stockton & San Pablo naturalgrocery.com
Elevation 66 Brewing Co.
10082 San Pablo Ave.
elevation66.com
El Mono Fresh Flavors of Peru
10264 San Pablo Ave.
elmonofreshecc.com
Frannie Express Hawaiian Barbecue
11775 San Pablo Ave.
frannieexpresshawaiian.com
Gangam Tofu Korean Cuisine
11740 San Pablo Ave.
Himalayan Grocery
10340 San Pablo Ave.
HK Home Kitchen
10140 San Pablo Ave.
Jack in the Box
5920 Cutting Blvd.
jackinthebox.com
Jamba Juice
El Cerrito Plaza
jamba.com
Little Caesar’s Pizza
11299 San Pablo Ave.
littlecaesars.com
Little Hong Kong
10443 San Pablo Ave.
Lucky Store
El Cerrito Plaza
lucky super markets.com
McBears Social Club taco truck
10458 San Pablo Ave.
McDonalds
11821 San Pablo Ave.
mcdonalds.com
Mountain Mike’s Pizza
10750 San Pablo Ave.
mountainmikespizza.com
Mr. Pickle’s Sandwich Shop
10810 San Pablo Ave.
mrpickles.com
New India Supermarket
10289 San Pablo Ave.
New India Supermarket
10289 San Pablo Ave.
Nation’s Giant Hamburgers
Central & San Pablo
nations restaurants.com
New Dumpling
10064 San Pablo Ave.
Noodles Fresh
10042 San Pablo Ave.
noodlesfresh.com
Nori Roll
10178 San Pablo Ave.
noriroll.com
Papi’s Pizza Roma
10616 San Pablo Ave.
papispizzaroma.com
Panda Express
El Cerrito Plaza
pandarexpress.com
Peet’s Coffee
Carlson & San Pablo peets.com
Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen
10125 San Pablo Ave.
popeyes.com
Quickly
El Cerrito Plaza
Red Onion
11900 San Pablo Ave.
Romano’s Macaroni Grill
El Cerrito Plaza
macaronigrill.com
Safeway
11450 San Pablo Ave.
local safeway.com
Sasa Kitchen
10350 San Pablo Ave.
sasakitchenca.com
Starbucks Coffee
11861 San Pablo Ave.
starbucks.com
Subway
10398 San Pablo Ave.
11430 San Pablo Ave.
subway.com
Taqueria El Salva
11252 San Pablo Ave.
Tashi Delek Cuisine
11224 San Pablo Ave.
tashidelek cuisine.com
The Junket
El Cerrito Plaza
thejunket.com
Uncle Wong’s
11760 San Pablo Ave.
unclewongselcerrito.com
Well Grounded Tea & Coffee Bar
6925 Stockton Ave.
well grounded.com
Wienerschnitzel
11401 San Pablo Ave.
wienerschnitzel.com
Wingstop
El Cerrito Plaza
wingstop.com
Yammi Sushi
El Cerrito Plaza
Yoshio Sushi
10889 San Pablo Ave.
yoshiosushielcerrito.com

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