

MEMORANDUM



TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Karen Pinkos, City Manager
DATE: July 23, 2020
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

At the City Council meeting on July 21, the City Council amended the City's Local Health Emergency order from March 13, 2020 in order to approve a Temporary Outdoor Dining and Retail Program in the City of El Cerrito. This program is intended to help our local businesses during the COVID-19 public health crisis.

The Temporary Outdoor Dining and Retail Program provides guidelines and a permit for businesses to expand their footprint in order to follow social distancing protocols by waiving existing requirements that limit the use of outdoor space. This includes the use of public sidewalks, public parking spaces, outdoor private space, and private parking lots. The program allows interested businesses within the City to utilize outdoor spaces for expanded dining, retail, and services and require that the businesses comply with City, County, and State standards and public health regulations for operation of any specific business. The program will remain in effect for the duration of the current Local Emergency order and will expire when the Local Emergency is lifted by the City Council. You can find information on the Temporary Outdoor Dining and Retail Program at el-cerrito.org/outdoorseating.

Big thanks to the Community Development Department and Public Works Department teams for putting this together so that our local businesses have additional opportunities to continue serving our community. I am looking forward to more al fresco dining in El Cerrito! Once again, I encourage everyone to shop and eat locally, and help our fantastic El Cerrito businesses keep going through these extraordinary times.

Please stay safe, stay healthy, and take care of yourselves and each other.

Karen Pinkos
City Manager
City of El Cerrito

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE

July 23, 2020



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CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATES

Status of City Office Closures

Please be advised that City Hall, the Community Center, and Recycling Center offices remain closed during the shelter in place order with no specific date for reopening. Additionally, any non-essential events and meetings are canceled until further notice. The City Council and many commissions are having public meetings virtually.

We respectfully ask the public not to knock on City facility windows or doors. Due to COVID-19, staff will not answer the door, except in cases of mail, deliveries, or a medical emergency. If you have an appointment, please call the person with whom you are meeting to inform them that you are waiting outside. If you do not have an appointment, please call, email, or visit our website to arrange one.

Many City services are available by appointment, phone, email, or online. Please visit elcerrito.org/COVID19 for contact information.

All staff and members of the public are required to wear a mask while conducting business at any City facility. Thank you for your patience and consideration during this challenging.

CITY MANAGEMENT/CITY CLERK

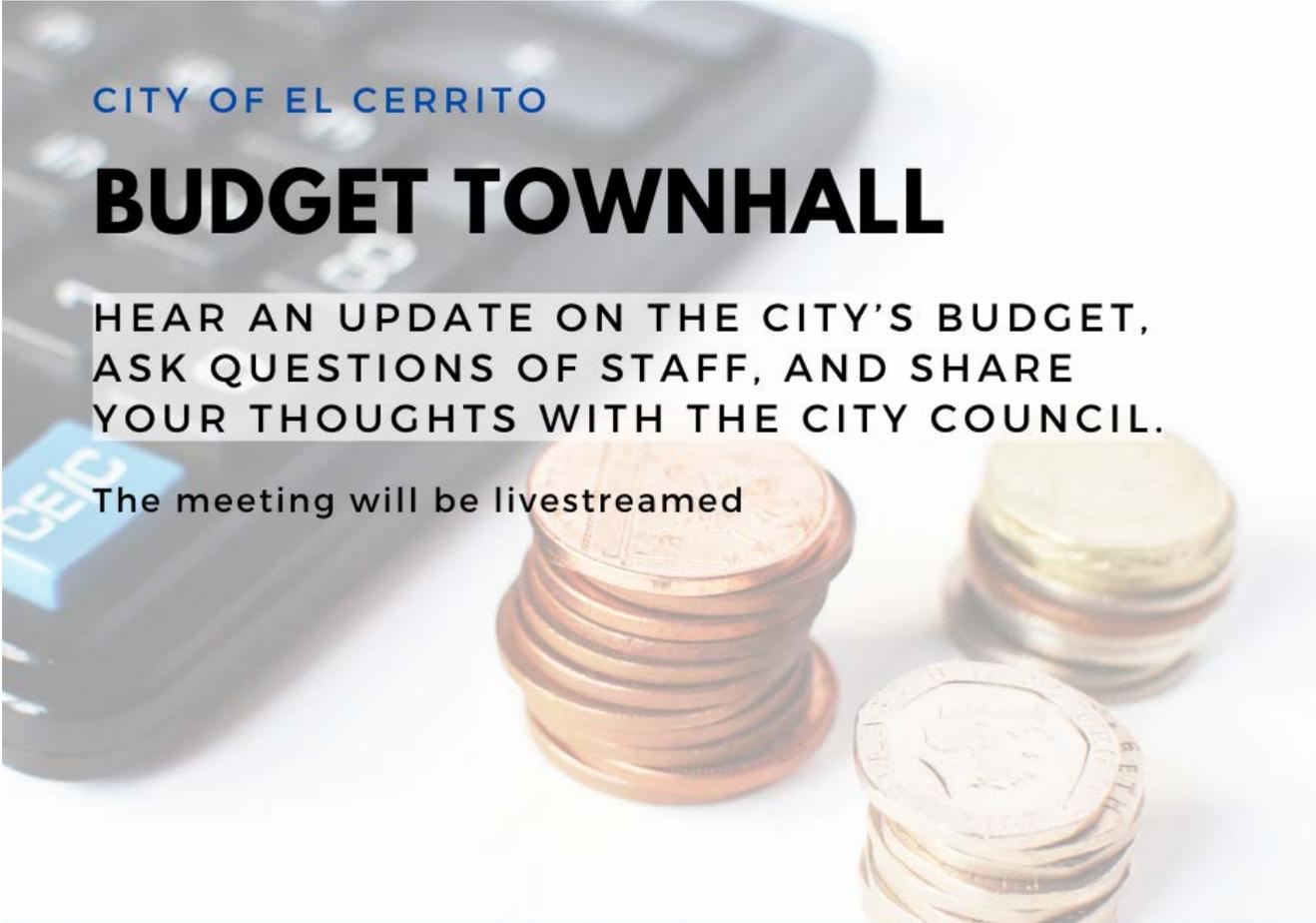
City Council Adopted a Black Lives Matter Resolution on July 21

At Tuesday's City Council meeting, the City Council adopted a resolution in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and social justice and recognizing their duty to act locally. The resolution also authorized the installation of a public mural message on the Ohlone Greenway as an expression of the City Council.

On Saturday, July 25, the Youth Solidarity Project will sponsor a Black Lives Matter mural on the Ohlone Greenway between Manila and Schmidt at 10 a.m. The community is welcome, but please wear your masks, remain physically distant by at least 6 feet, and bring your own hand sanitizer. Please see flyer below.

Budget Townhall to be held on Saturday, August 1, 2020

Once again, El Cerritans will have an opportunity to hear updates about the budget and ask questions. The townhall will be held virtually on Saturday, August 1, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. More information can be seen below and at www.el-cerrito.org/budgettownhall.



CITY OF EL CERRITO

BUDGET TOWNHALL

HEAR AN UPDATE ON THE CITY'S BUDGET,
ASK QUESTIONS OF STAFF, AND SHARE
YOUR THOUGHTS WITH THE CITY COUNCIL.

The meeting will be livestreamed

Saturday, August 1, 2020
10 am to 12 pm
www.el-cerrito.org/budgettownhall



Census 2020

Have you responded to the Census? If we're not counted, we're not seen. When we aren't seen, we aren't heard. Respond now at my2020census.gov and be sure that you're counted, seen, and heard! This will ensure we have proper representation in our local and state governments. #ICount



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) resumed accepting applications July 6, 2020

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) resumed accepting applications July 6, 2020, in response to President signing the program's extension legislation. The new deadline to apply for a PPP loan is August 8, 2020. As a reminder, the Paycheck Protection Program is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. The SBA will forgive loans if all employee retention criteria are met and the funds are used for eligible expenses. Applications must be submitted through an SBA-approved lender. For more details, click [here](#).



The [Economic Injury Disaster Loan](#) (EIDL) is also available to help businesses affected by disaster. As a result of COVID-19, added benefits now include Emergency EIDL which provides expedited access to funding by allowing those who have applied to the EIDL to request a **GRANT advance of up to \$10,000** on the loan to provide sick leave, and to pay employees and other debt obligations. You **MUST** apply for the EIDL and request the emergency funds at the same time. Please click [here](#) for more information. As a reminder, the [Contra Costa Small Business Development Center](#) provides one-on-one advising; please contact their office by phone or email at: (925) 222-5228 or admin@contracostasbdc.org.

Local Resources from Utility Providers

During these challenging times, there are programs that may be able to assist with your utility expenses. Both East Bay MUD and PG&E offer qualified customers with reduced water and energy services. To learn more, please view the programs below.

- [EBMUD Customer Assistance Program \(CAP\)](#)
- [EBMUD's Water Lifeline Program](#)
- [Pacific Gas and Electric Discount Programs](#)

FIRE

ISO Rating Evaluation

In 2014, the Fire Department was evaluated by the Insurance Services Office, Inc (ISO) to determine the fire suppression rating, otherwise known as our ISO rating. At that time, the Fire Department's rating was improved to an ISO rating of 2 (on a scale 1 to 10). I have been notified that ISO will reevaluate the Fire Department. ISO provides statistical, actuarial, and underwriting information for the commercial and personal property/casualty insurance and risk management industries. The rating is based on staffing levels, equipment, water systems, training, prevention and public education.

PUBLIC WORKS

East Bay Sanitary Implements New Procedures & Has Resumed Annual Cleanups and Bulky Item Pickups

Due to the ongoing pandemic, East Bay Sanitary (EBS) has implemented new policies and procedures to protect drivers, staff, and the community.

Regular Garbage and Green Waste collection has continued as normal; however, Bulky Item Pickups were temporarily suspended and their office hours were shortened to reduce the potential for spread of the coronavirus. EBS has now **resumed Annual Cleanups and Bulky Item Pickups**. To schedule your Annual Cleanup or for more information about your Garbage or Green Waste service, please call EBS at (510) 237-4321.

To align with the most recent County Health Orders, EBS has expanded its office hours back to 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., though it remains closed to "walk-ins."

Storm Drain Inlet Marking Project in Progress

Public Works Staff have started putting together an Annual Report for the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) municipal stormwater permit, which requires that the City address stormwater pollution issues throughout the community. Activities required under the permit include responding to "illicit discharges," ensuring "Best Management Practices" are incorporated into new development projects, conducting inspections of businesses to ensure stormwater is protected, conducting outreach and providing public information, and more. One way of providing public information about the importance of keeping our creeks and storm drains clean is to install markers next to storm drain inlets that display messages, such as "Drains to Bay." This helps make it clear to

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE (CONT'D)

community members that it is of the utmost importance to only allow rain to enter the curb, gutter, and storm drain system.

Public Works Staff, with support from a volunteer, have already started installing hundreds of new markers next to storm drain inlets to ensure that the vast majority of inlets have public information adjacent to them. For more information about this project or the City's Clean Water Program, please contact City staff at wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

RECREATION

July 24 Marks the First Day of Family Lanes

Friday July 24 will be the first day of Family Lanes, an opportunity for families with a maximum of 5 members to swim in one of the two shallower lanes in the lap pool. Family times are offered Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 2 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Reservations can be made online for 45-minute time slots. el-cerrito.org/swimcenter

The Swim Center has been open since July 6, with program times for Masters Swim, Fitness Swim and Gators Swim Team.

Special Summer Camp Session 3

The third and final session of the special summer camp program begins on Monday, July 27 and continues through Wednesday, August 12. Families have been overwhelmingly appreciative of the Department's efforts in producing safe and enriching programs. All 10 city-run pods are full and running at Castro, Casa Cerrito, Fairmont and Harding, and staff are planning on a pandemic-appropriate Grand Finale for the last day. Seven specialty pods are also being offered, including Sports, Robotics, Art, and Tennis, and will take place at the Community Center and Cerrito Vista Park. Overall, we will be serving about 200 campers in session 3!

July is National Parks & Recreation Month and California's "Parks Make Life Better Month"

To celebrate, The El Cerrito Recreation Department created a [month-long calendar](#) of activity suggestions to promote recreation in El Cerrito. Each day we also highlighted activities on our social media pages and encouraged the community to share their posts by tagging us and using the hashtags: #WeAreParksAndRec & #parksmakelifebetter. The response has been good, with people engaging us from not only El Cerrito but also from around the Bay Area and state. El Cerrito Recreation was also recognized on the California Parks & Recreation Society Facebook page for both our activity calendar and our overall department-wide accomplishments over the past year.

Ravencliff-at-Home Box and T-shirts

This year would have marked the El Cerrito Recreation Department's 20th Anniversary of hosting residential camp at Camp Ravencliff in Humboldt County. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both sessions of this sleep-away camp were cancelled. However, to keep the EC Ravencliff community together during this time, recreation staff created the Ravencliff-at-Home program. This "camp-in-a-box" model will provide those who signed up a delivery of classic camp project supplies, nature and camp themed activity ideas, links to messages and songs from camp staff, and a camp t-shirt. For those

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE (CONT'D)

who didn't register for the at-home program but would still like to show their support for EC Camp Ravencliff, camp shirts can be [purchased online](#). More details can be found at el-cerrito.org/1316/El-Cerrito-Camp-Ravencliff.

Fall Planning Underway

Earlier this month, the West Contra Costa Unified School District announced that the 2020-21 School Year would begin with distance learning. Shortly after announcing the proposed plan, the El Cerrito Recreation Department sent out an interest form to gauge the needs and interests of the community during the upcoming school year. The response was profuse, with over 330 submissions in less than a week, demonstrating that there is a strong need amongst El Cerrito residents and beyond for care and supervision during and after the typical school day.

In collaboration with local elementary school principals, fall planning efforts are now underway utilizing interest form feedback as well as state guidelines, the county health order, and recommendations from the CDPH and CDC. Program information should be available by early August. The El Cerrito Recreation Department would like to thank the community for their participation for their patience and understanding while we develop a program that is as safe as possible for students as well as our staff.

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

- ★ Black Lives Matter mural event

