



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** December 16, 2020  
**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department  
**SUBJECT:** Director's Report

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commission receive a presentation on the status of various Parks and Recreation Department (Department) initiatives and activities.

**DISCUSSION:**

COVID-19 Regional Stay at Home Order

Earlier this week, the State issued a Regional Stay-At-Home Order (Order) which impacted several Parks and Recreation programs and facilities. This Order took effect on Sunday, December 6th, 2020 and is expected to last at least three weeks.

Most notably, the Order taking effect Sunday required all playgrounds to close. Parks staff added closure information signage to City playgrounds on Monday, December 7th. On Wednesday, December 8th, the State rescinded requirements that outdoor playgrounds close. At the time of this writing, Santa Barbara playgrounds remain closed as Santa Barbara County's most recent Health Officer Order, effective Tuesday, December 8th, still requires playground closures. Staff anticipate that the County Health Officer may issue a new Health Order at some point this week allowing playgrounds to reopen. Should that occur, staff will quickly reopen playgrounds and update signage to reflect playground capacity and to provide information on playing safely and with physical distance.

The State Order allows for outdoor recreational amenities to remain open, and at this time, Skater's Point and the East Beach volleyball courts remain open. Staff is monitoring closely and encouraging compliance with physical distancing and 100% masking requirements. If staff identify repeated violations, the department may be obliged to close Skater's Point and the volleyball courts. These decisions would not be taken lightly and would be coordinated with other City departments and regional partners.

While this Order limits the activities and facilities that our department offers, nearly all of our outdoor amenities remain open including: parks, beaches, community gardens, lawn

bowling, tennis, pickleball, outdoor fitness classes, the Santa Barbara Golf Club, and the Los Baños Del Mar Pool.

Sports fields for youth sports practices and conditioning in compliance with the Health Officer Order remain operational through a permitting system and individual attestations from user groups to demonstrate limited class size and physical distancing. The Municipal Tennis and Pickleball Courts are actively managed and will be able to remain open during most of the Stay-At-Home Order's duration. The courts will be closed from December 25th through January 1<sup>st</sup> due to limited on-site staff availability during the City office holiday closure.

Food distribution and senior meal programs will also continue through the duration of the Regional Stay-At-Home Order. Both programs are run through partnerships and our community partners have announced holiday closures from December 24th through January 3rd.

Finally, the Department has also reevaluated all onsite staffing to ensure that employees who can work from home are working from home and those who are onsite are not working in close proximity with other employees. In some cases this means that staff are working in borrowed workspaces or shifting schedules. We are hopeful that with these changes, we will balance the safety of our workforce with the service needs of our community.

#### City Offices Holiday Closure

Other than essential services, the majority of City offices will be closed from December 23, 2020 through January 1, 2021. Offices will reopen on January 4, 2021. Although all Department Administration offices will be closed, the Parks Division will be operating during the general holiday closure period with a staffing level capable of managing basic operations and any emergencies. This includes field staff, Park Rangers, and a Supervisor. During this time, weekends will be almost fully staffed, and weekdays staffed at approximately fifty percent. On December 25th and January 1st, the Division will operate with a small field crew of 4-5 staff to cover restroom opening and cleaning, and litter removal.

#### Los Baños Del Mar Pool Maintenance Closure

Los Baños del Mar Pool is scheduled to close from December 24, 2020 through January 3, 2021 for multiple pool maintenance projects. November marks the sixth month since the facility safely reopened under state and local health guidelines associated with COVID-19. Since that time, Los Baños has been operating from 6am to 9pm, seven days per week in order to maximize public access while supporting co-sponsored and leased aquatic rentals, such as Santa Barbara Swim Club, Santa Barbara Masters Swimming, Santa Barbara City College Physical Education, Santa Barbara Marine Dive Technology, 805 Youth Water Polo Club, and Premier Youth Water Polo Club. The closure length is consistent with past maintenance closures, and the scheduled maintenance, deep cleaning, and improvements will ensure the facility continues to operate smoothly for everyone to enjoy.

Los Baños del Mar continues to be an indispensable part of Santa Barbara's aquatic community. The maintenance closures help maintain its safety and functionality, while also improving the experience of swimmers.

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