

**ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF CAPITOLA
NO. 6-2020**

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2020, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, effective throughout the State of California; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Santa Cruz County Public Health Officer declared a local health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, the City Council of the City of Capitola declared the existence and anticipated spread of COVID-19 to be an emergency situation, as defined in California Government Code Section 54956.6, because it severely impairs public health and safety;

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, the City Council further declared the existence and anticipated spread of COVID-19 to be a local emergency, as defined by the California Emergency Services Act (California Government Code Sections 8634, 8550, *et seq.*);

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 8634 empowers the Director of Emergency Services to promulgate orders and regulations necessary to provide for the protection of life and property;

WHEREAS, Capitola Municipal Code Section 8.08.050.A designates the City Manager as the Director of Emergency Services and Capitola Municipal Code Section 8.08.060.A.6.a authorizes the Director of Emergency Services to make and issue rules and regulations on matter reasonably related to the protection of life and property; and

WHEREAS, contract tracing indicates large gatherings associated with holidays or special occasions are a significant cause of this increase; for example, Santa Cruz County Public Health officials have explained that gatherings of multiple households for Mother's Day and school graduations have resulted in group transmissions; and

WHEREAS, epidemiological models predict a potential four-fold increase in COVID-related hospitalizations in Santa Cruz County by the beginning of September, and with 356 licensed hospital beds available locally, an increase in COVID-related hospitalizations will reduce local hospital capacity to care for critically ill community members, and

WHEREAS, in order to preserve the availability of hospital beds in our County, and reduce the rate of transmission of COVID-19, immediate action is necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the number of infected persons in Santa Cruz County is rising and having many people gathered on the beach and visiting Capitola to access the beach seriously impedes efforts to stem the local transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City of Capitola, along with the entirety of Santa Cruz County, historically receives a heavy influx of single-day beachgoers over holiday and three-day weekends, and typically sees huge crowds on Labor Day weekend celebrating the end of summer; and

WHEREAS, heavy use of beaches and surrounding recreational areas impedes the City and County efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, reducing the number of visitors from outside the region is critical to protecting City and County residents currently and I have determined that urgent action must be taken to protect the health, safety, and welfare of individuals in Capitola;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED by the Director of Emergency Services of the City of Capitola that:

1. All beaches in the City of Capitola (Capitola Beach) will be closed to the public from 5:00am on Saturday, September 5 through 5:00pm on Monday, September 7, 2020 (the Closure Period), with the following exceptions:
 - a. Capitola Beach will be open to the public on Saturday, September 5, 2020, between 6:00pm and 8:00pm
 - b. Capitola Beach will be open to the public on Sunday, September 6, 2020, between 6:00pm and 8:00pm
2. During the Closure Period the ocean will remain open for water sports (e.g.: surfing, boogie-boarding, swimming, paddle-boarding, kayaking, boating, etc.) and individuals may cross beaches in order to access and leave the ocean
3. During the Closure Period disabled parking, ramps, and means of accessing the ocean will remain open in order to not impeded ocean access for disabled individuals.



Jamie Goldstein
Director of Emergency Services, City of Capitola

ATTEST:



Chloé Woodmansee, Interim City Clerk