

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

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Memorandum

DATE: August 7, 2020

TO: Enforcement Committee Members

FROM: Ashley Tomerlin, Bay Design Analyst (415/352-3657; ashley.tomerlin@bcdc.ca.gov)

RE: COVID-19-RELATED TEMPORARY PUBLIC ACCESS CLOSURES

Over the last several months, BCDC staff have received several inquiries from both permittees and members of the public regarding temporary closures of public access areas along the Bay shoreline. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Enforcement Committee on the authorized temporary closures of public access areas due to COVID-19-related public health orders and efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19.

The Commission is charged with ensuring that maximum feasible public access is provided to the Bay and its shoreline. Access to the Bay allows the public to discover, experience, and appreciate the Bay's natural resources, and can foster public support for protecting the Bay as a resource to the region. Public access to and along the Bay shoreline is primarily provided via physical access to a site, with amenities including picnic areas and parking to facilitate access.

Staff recognize that it is antithetical to BCDC's mission to summarily close shoreline access. However, this is an extraordinary time in which public authorities have restricted public movement to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Since March, all nine Bay Area counties have instituted public health orders that have been revised as their public health officials have learned more about the virus and how to prevent the spread of the disease. For example, initial shelter-in-place orders have evolved to allow parks and open spaces to reopen and provide limited outdoor recreation opportunities.

BCDC staff have been working with permit holders to allow temporary, reasonable restrictions on public use of required public access areas in cases where such use is deemed inconsistent with local public health orders. The staff's two-pronged goal is to enable permittees to implement any necessary restrictions required by the public health orders as quickly and efficiently as possible while providing the public with as much access to outdoor spaces as possible so that people can enjoy fresh air, exercise and recreate, and socialize all in a safe and appropriate manner while enjoying the Bay shoreline. BCDC staff have authorized temporary closures of required public access areas due to the COVID-19 emergency only when the proposed closures: (1) are required by local public health orders; (2) are not contrary to other related permit requirements; and (3) meet the criteria described below. As noted on BCDC's



website, permit holders who propose to close public access areas must seek approval from BCDC staff prior to closing such required public access areas.

BCDC Criteria for Allowing Closures of Public Access Areas (as noted on the BCDC website)

- The purpose, need, and duration of the temporary closure or restriction must be tied to a COVID-19 public health order from the local public health department or public safety department. As orders are revised to lighten or lift restrictions, public access areas will reopen in a commensurate manner.
- Temporary closures or restrictions may apply only to public access areas that are affected by the COVID-19 public health orders. Public access areas, or portions of public access areas, that can remain open without affecting the ability to comply with public health orders must remain open.
- The purpose and need for temporary closures or restrictions to public access areas must be documented prior to the closure and updated as the situation changes.
- Upon reopening, the public access area shall be restored to its previous condition or better.

After initial shelter-in-place orders, most of the authorized closures of the Bay Trail have reopened, with the exception of one segment of the Bay Trail located at Craneway Pavilion, which is a designated overflow treatment location for COVID-19 patients. Throughout the Bay Area, many of the initial temporary closures or restrictions have been lifted, and BCDC staff and site managers are learning each day how to better provide safe public spaces along the Bay shoreline.

Requests for new closures have dwindled as the Bay Area moves into its sixth month of living with COVID-19. As public health orders allow for greater freedom of movement, BCDC staff are working to ensure that public access areas are as open and as available as possible for outdoor recreation and other uses.

Below is a list (as of August 7, 2020) of shoreline public access sites that are currently temporarily closed. This list will be updated regularly on BCDC's website, but due to rapidly changing conditions it might not capture all public access areas.

Alameda

- **Crown Beach**, East Bay Regional Parks District. McKay parking lot closed, walk-in access only.
- **Portobello Apartments**, Oakland. Courtyard and public restrooms closed.

Contra Costa

- **Craneway Pavilion**, Richmond. Bay Trail closed. Detour signs for alternate route provided on site.

Marin

- **Golden Gate National Recreation Area**, National Park Service. Closed Marin sites include Kirby Cove Day Use Area and Point Bonita Lighthouse.
- **Schoonmaker Marina**, Sausalito. Beach and public dock closed. Water access is open via pathway at beach.

San Francisco

- **Agua Vista Park**, Port of San Francisco. Fishing pier and picnic area closed but not fenced off.
- **Bayview Gateway Park**, Port of San Francisco. Picnic area closed but not fenced off.
- **Brannan Street Wharf**, Port of San Francisco. Picnic area closed but not fenced off. Lawn open.
- **Ferry Building**. Reduced operating hours of ground floor retail/public access areas.
- **Golden Gate National Recreation Area**, National Park Service. Closed San Francisco sites include all picnic areas, Alcatraz Island, Fort Point National Historic Site, and Golden Gate Bridge Welcome Center.
- **Heron's Head Park**, Port of San Francisco. Barbecues, picnic area, and lawn closed but not fenced off. Bay Trail open.
- **Islais Creek Landing**, Port of San Francisco. Picnic area closed but not fenced off.
- **Oracle Park (SF Giants Ballpark)**, San Francisco. "Knothole" public viewing area closed. Bay Trail open.
- **Piers 1.5-5**. Interior public access areas (breezeway and lobby) closed.
- **Pier 27/29**, Port of San Francisco and Metro. Pier 27 apron and tip area closed, Pier 29 tip closed. Lawn and other areas remain open.
- **Pier 41**, Blue and Gold. Public restrooms closed.
- **Pier 45**, Port of San Francisco. Picnic area closed but not fenced off.
- **South Beach Harbor**, Port of San Francisco. Playground and picnic area closed but not fenced off. Lawn open. Shoreline access open.
- **Warm Water Cove**, Port of San Francisco. Picnic area closed but not fenced off.

San Mateo

- **Genentech**, South San Francisco. Public parking adjacent to Bay Trail closed. Bay Trail is open.
- **Golden Gate National Recreation Area**, National Park Service. No vehicle parking in community areas.
- **Foster City shoreline**. Bay Trail open to pedestrians. Bicycles and joggers rerouted to Beach Park Blvd.

Santa Clara

No closures requested.

Sonoma

No closures requested.

Solano

No closures requested.