

CITY MANAGER UPDATES – JULY 24, 2020

UPCOMING

Monday, July 27, – City Council Meeting – **CANCELLED**

Tuesday, July 28, 10:00 AM – [Special Virtual Cultural Arts Commission Meeting](#)

Wednesday, July 29, 6:30 PM – [Special Virtual Planning Commission Meeting](#)

Friday, July 31, 1:00 PM – [Environmental Review Board Meeting](#)

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

City staff continues to monitor and respond to the pandemic by participating in regular briefings and conference calls with partner agencies, and issuing alerts and notifications regarding changes to the situation. The County recently launched [a new online dashboard](#) to track cases, testing, deaths and hospitalizations. Key updates as of July 22, 2020 include the following:

73 confirmed cases and 2 deaths in the City of Malibu

164,870 confirmed cases and 4,213 deaths in LA County

2,207 hospitalizations in LA County

8.3% testing positivity rate

The City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated since March 12 to manage the City's response. Current operational objectives include:

- Monitor news for changes to regulations that impact City residents and businesses
- Post updates on all social media platforms on an as-needed basis
- Identify City rules and regulations that need adjustment due to the pandemic
- Respond to community concerns regarding compliance with State and County Public Health Orders
- Maintain field operations per health guidelines and ramp up virtual operation capabilities

In addition, the City continues to provide nearly all regular City services and all staff are working. To support the health and safety of staff and visitors to City Hall, a COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan has been developed, staff has received training on the plan, physical safe guards have been put into place and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) has been provided. In addition, visitors are allowed in City Hall by appointment only.

To address the risk posed to people experiencing homelessness, the City recently received a \$5,000 grant through the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments to create hygiene kits that include items such as face coverings and hand sanitizer to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in the homeless community. The Las Virgenes-Malibu COG homeless outreach coordinator is distributing them to individuals in the region.

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The nomination period for the November 3, 2020 General Municipal Election opened on Monday, July 13 and will close on Friday, August 7, or Wednesday August 12 if the incumbent does not file. You can find more information on [the Elections web page](#). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an appointment must be made with the City Clerk to be issued or file nomination papers. To make an appointment, please email hglaser@malibucity.org or call 424)-395-6431.

There will be a limited number of the recently implemented Regional Vote Centers available for the November 3, 2020 election. Register to vote by October 19, 2020, to automatically be sent a vote-by-mail ballot for the November 3, 2020 election. To register or check your current registration, visit [the LAVote website](#).

PASSPORT SERVICES

In order to keep City staff and the community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, the City is not accepting passport appointments at this time. The U.S. Department of State has a phased plan for reopening services and, as of Monday, July 13, a total of 12 passport agencies and centers are in phase one, and five agencies and centers are in phase two of its three-phase reopening plan. Appointments at passport agencies and centers are limited to customers who must travel internationally in the next 72 hours due to a life-or-death emergency. The U.S. Department of State's reopening plan and current international travel advisories are [posted on their website](#).

MALIBU REBUILDS

Since the Woolsey Fire, the Planning Department has approved over 554 applications including 68 since the pandemic began. Based on those approvals, Building Safety has issued 120 permits for single family dwellings and issued 12 permits for a 12-unit multi-family apartment complex. Six single-family homes have been completed, and several more are close to completion. Get all the up to date rebuild statistics on the City's [Rebuild Statistics Page](#).

MALIBU REBUILDS – REBUILD CONSULTATIONS

The Fire Rebuild team is available for complimentary one-on-one consultations about any fire rebuild project. Contact Aakash Shah at AShah@malibucity.org to set an appointment for a phone or online meeting. If needed, an in-person meeting may also be scheduled. For ideas about how to get started with your project, visit the City's [Rebuild Page](#), where you can view rebuild options and find all related forms and handouts.

NEW BUILDING SAFETY ONLINE PERMITTING SERVICES

- Over-the-counter permits (building, mechanical, electrical, spa/pool and plumbing) can now be submitted through the new [Online Building Permit Request Portal](#). Visit the City's [Building and Safety Page](#) for more information.

MALIBU REBUILDS - FEE WAIVER DEADLINES

On June 22, City Council extended the fee waiver deadlines to give eligible home owners more time to submit their rebuild projects and receive fee waivers. Fee waiver applications must be received by December 30, 2020, all required Planning Department applications for the project must be deemed complete by December 30, 2020, and all required building permits must be pulled by June 30, 2021. Note that Council also clarified that all fees associated with post-approval revisions to the project's Planning Department approval or building permit issuance will not be waived and will be charged in accordance the City's Adopted Fee Schedule. See the [FAQs](#) for more information.

MALIBU REBUILDS - DEADLINES FOR NON-CONFORMING STRUCTURES

To rebuild non-conforming homes and structures without having to bring the structure into compliance or seek variances, property owners must apply with the Planning Department by November 8, 2020. Extensions may be requested for extraordinary circumstances and will be considered by the Planning Commission. Please contact the Fire Rebuild Team at AShah@malibucity.org or call 310-456-2489, ext. 385 to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

EMERGENCY SURVIVAL GUIDE

The Malibu Emergency Survival Guide is now available. The free guide book is based on the Los Angeles County Survival Guide but customized for Malibu. This comprehensive booklet includes information about creating an emergency plan, emergency food and supplies, what to do when disaster strikes, basic first aid, important phone numbers and hazards specific to Malibu. Since City Hall is only open on a limited basis due to COVID-19, we encourage neighborhood and community groups to make an appointment to pick up the booklets in bulk to distribute in your neighborhood. To make an appointment to pick up the guide for your neighborhood/community group, contact Sarah Kaplan, Public Safety Specialist, at skaplan@malibucity.org or 310-456-2489, ext. 368.

OUTDOOR EMERGENCY SIREN SYSTEM SOUND STUDY RESULTS

In December 2019, the City contracted with Mission Critical Partners to perform a sound study for a system of outdoor emergency warning sirens in Malibu to determine quantity and location of sirens for effective coverage. The final report was completed in June and includes three options for consideration, estimated costs for each and sound coverage maps illustrating the results during normal conditions as well as high wind events. In addition to our topography, two factors that have a big impact on siren sound coverage are wind and home insulation. Sound coverage is dramatically reduced when people are inside their homes and winds are blowing at 40 mph or more. The full results will be presented to the Public Safety Commission on August 5 at 5:00 PM during the virtual Commission meeting.

BUILDING SAFETY ONLINE SERVICES

To help facilitate Building Safety reviews, Building Safety has transitioned to electronic plan check submittals, permits, and invoices. Visit the City's [Building and Safety Page](#) to find out how to start an electronic plan check submittal and permit request or email mbuilding@malibucity.org for more information.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT ONLINE SERVICES

The Planning Department continues to provide all services online, by phone or by appointment. All planning staff are working remotely and at City Hall. For a complete list of planning services, visit the City's [Planning web page](#).

TEMPORARY RESTAURANT RECOVERY PROGRAM

On June 8, the City Council approved a Temporary Restaurant Recovery Program in order to help local restaurants recover from the impacts of the pandemic. The ordinance allows local restaurants to get a permit to temporarily expand their seating areas to adjacent common areas or sidewalks with physical distancing and other public health protocols in place to continue the fight to slow the spread of coronavirus. Restaurants must obtain a permit before expanding seating. More information about the program, including the permit application form and contact information to request assistance, is available on the City's [Restaurant Recovery Program Page](#).

SHORT-TERM RENTALS – ZTA AND LCP AMENDMENT

The Planning Commission will hold a special virtual meeting on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 to consider a Zoning Text Amendment and Local Coastal Program Amendment pursuant to Council's December 3, 2019 direction to closely follow the home-sharing ordinance implemented by the City of Santa Monica. The special meeting for this item was originally scheduled for March 30 and was cancelled due to the pandemic. [The agenda report for the July 29 meeting is posted on the City website](#). You can also sign up for alerts by text or email on this subject. For complaints or concerns regarding short-term rentals, contact the STR Code Enforcement hotline via email at STR@malibucity.org or by phone at 310-456-2489, ext. 308. For after-hours complaints, call the City's after-hours hotline at 310-456-2489, ext. 311, which is monitored by an operator, or call the Malibu Lost Hills Sheriff's Station at 310-456-6652.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS – “INTERIM” ORDINANCE

On Monday, June 22, City Council directed staff to bring back the ordinance presented to the City Council on December 3, 2019 establishing provisions to regulate the short-term rental of properties in the City. This ordinance would be superseded by the above ZTA/LCPA if approved by Council and certified by the California Coastal Commission. A [City Council public hearing](#) will be held on Monday, August 10, to consider this ordinance. The agenda report and draft ordinance will be published next week. For more information, visit the [Short-Term Rentals](#) web page.

TRANCAS CREEK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Caltrans is proposing to replace the existing 96 year-old, 85-foot wide, 90-foot long concrete bridge, which was constructed in 1927 to span Trancas Creek on PCH in Malibu, with a new concrete bridge, which will be 105 feet wide by 240 feet long. The new bridge will provide two 12-foot traffic lanes, a bike lane, and 10-foot shoulders in each direction. The northbound and southbound traffic will be separated by a six-foot striped median. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$12.5 million. Construction is expected to begin in February 2021 and be completed in March 2023. The project requires a Coastal Development Permit to be issued by the City as well as adoption of the environmental document. On July 31, the Malibu Environmental Review Board (ERB) will hold a virtual meeting to provide recommendations to the Planning Director prior to a public hearing before the Planning Commission. The ERB staff report will be available [on the City website](#) prior to the meeting. For more information, please visit the [project web page](#).

COASTAL COMMISSION HEARINGS

On Wednesday, August 12, the California Coastal Commission will hold virtual hearings on two Malibu items. [The staff reports are available on the website.](#)

- Fire-Resistant Landscape Amendment - In March 2020, City Council adopted [Ordinance No. 461](#) which amended the Malibu Municipal Code and the Local Coastal Program to foster more fire-resistant landscapes. Unless the Commission objects to the Executive Director’s determination, the minor amendment will take effect automatically upon reporting to the Commission.
- Appeal Hearing – On June 8, 2020, the City Council approved a [Coastal Development Permit](#) for a project located at 21490 Paseo Portola, which was appealed to the Coastal Commission.

PROHIBITION OF PESTICIDES AND RODENTICIDES – LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM AMENDMENT

On June 19, the California Coastal Commission (CCC) deemed the City’s Local Coastal Program amendment complete and will be proposing modifications to the City’s proposed amendment. As such, the amendment cannot be processed as de minimus/administratively. A CCC hearing date has not yet been scheduled. Until the amendment is certified, a condition of approval

regarding the prohibition will be added to coastal development permits. For more information, visit the [project page](#).

PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH

The City of Malibu Community Services Department invites you to celebrate Parks and Recreation Month by safely visiting City parks and participating in virtual activities during July. To learn more about Parks and Recreation Month, a public awareness campaign by the National Recreation and Parks Association, visit [the City web page](#) and [the NRPA website](#). Also, be sure to follow the Community Services Department on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for updates and activities.

MALIBU BLUFFS PARK AND SKATE PARK CLOSED

Due to current COVID-19 conditions, and to protect the health and safety of visitors and City staff, Malibu Bluffs Park and the Skate Park is temporarily closed. Online reservations for the Skate Park have also been suspended during the closure. Please visit the [Community Services Department Web Page](#) for updates regarding the reopening of Malibu Bluffs Park and the Skate Park.

COMMUNITY POOL

The Malibu Community Swimming Pool is open with limited programming and Covid-19 safety guidelines. Swimmers may view available dates/times or register for the SeaWolves Swim Program, Masters Swim, and Lap Swim online at [MalibuCity.org/Register](#). Please note: Lap Swim is available by reservation only through our [online reservation system](#) due to limited pool space. Walk-ups are not accepted.

VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

The Environmental Sustainability Department's [Virtual Environmental Center](#) allows residents to enjoy virtual activities from home and learn about the City's environmental projects. Virtual activities include Smart Gardening webinars (July), California Friendly Landscaping and Turf Removal webinars (July -August), and recycling tips.

LOCKING BIN LID ORDINANCE

To prevent the use of rodenticides, City Council amended MMC, Chapter 8.32 Solid Waste and Recyclable Materials to require all commercial solid waste bins (one to six cubic yards in size) to be kept closed and locked at all times (24 hours/7 days a week). Commercial businesses should arrange for locking lid service by calling their waste hauler, Universal Waste Systems at 800-631-7016 or Waste Management at 805-955-4305.

SELF-REGENERATING WATER SOFTENER BAN

The City has adopted a ban on the use of salt-based regenerative water softeners for properties connected to the Civic Center Wastewater Treatment Facility to reduce the salts in the groundwater. Installation of new salt and potassium chloride-based self –regenerating water

softeners existing self-regenerating water softeners at properties connected to the Civic Center Wastewater Treatment Facility must be removed by October 28, 2020.

RECYCLE RIGHT IN MALIBU

To reduce contamination in the recycling stream, residents are reminded to skip bagging their recyclables and empty recyclables loose into the recycling cart. Many materials that end up in the recycling cart contaminate the load and damage equipment at recycling facilities. Common non-recyclables include: plastic bags, shipping plastic bubbles and packing peanuts, polystyrene foam, napkins and paper towels, used paper plates and cups, and PPE (personal protection equipment). Let's all recycle right in Malibu. To learn more recycling tips, check out [the flyer](#) and the [Virtual Environmental Center](#).

GUARDRAIL REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Guardrail Replacement Project consists of replacement of the damaged guardrails from the Woolsey Fire at various locations within the City. The contractor will be working on the project for the next few months.

Locations:

Encinal Canyon (between Avenida Del Mar and Avenida De La Encinal)
Birdview Avenue (between Westward Beach Road and Bluewater Road)
Wildlife Road (between Zumirez Drive and Selfridge Street)
Latigo Canyon (between PCH and Ocean View Drive)
Corral Canyon (PCH to Seabreeze Drive)

LA County and the contractor have resolved the latest change order issues and have resumed construction which is anticipated to be completed by end of July or early August 2020.

ANNUAL STREET MAINTENANCE PROJECT

This project consists of pavement repairs, crack sealing, Type II Slurry Seal, Asphalt Rubber Hot Mix overlay and new thermoplastic striping. The project limits include the Carbon Mesa, Malibu Knolls and Malibu Country Estates neighborhoods. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed in August 2020. The work will be Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Alternating lane closures and partial street closures will be implemented during construction operations. Traffic control measures will include temporary signage, cones, flaggers and pilot cars. Work will include temporary loss of street parking and temporary loss of driveway access. To date the contractor has completed all pavement repairs, crack seal, and Asphalt Rubber Hot Mix (ARHM) overlay work. Currently the contractor is applying the Type II Slurry Seal on the selected streets within the project neighborhoods.

NEW SPEED HUMPS TO BE INSTALLED IN POINT DUME

On July 13, 2020, the Malibu City Council directed staff to install speed humps on Dume Drive and Fernhill Road at the recommendation of the Public Safety Commission. Starting in August

2020, the City of Malibu will be installing new speed humps on Dume Drive between Heathercliff Road and Cliffside Drive and on Fernhill Drive between Grayfox Street and Cliffside Drive. Staff has been working to notify residents of the Point Dume neighborhood about this project. More information on the construction schedule and traffic impacts will be provided once it is finalized.

FEMA PRELIMINARY FLOOD MAPS APPEAL

The City is in the process of appealing the revised FEMA Preliminary Flood Maps. These revised maps change the flood zone and flood depth along the City's coastline. The proposed changes could have an impact to all existing properties and any new development along the beach. Since December 2019, the City's consultant (Moffat & Nichol) conducted several conference calls with FEMA regarding the City's proposed methodology to determine the base flood elevations along the coastline. They also performed a new land survey and then re-calculated the depth of flooding along the coastline. The majority of the sections analyzed showed a lower base flood elevation. Last week, the City's consultant submitted the revised calculations to FEMA for review. The City is expecting FEMA's review process to go until November 2020. More information can be obtained on the City's [Floodplain Management Page](#).

STORM DRAIN TRASH SCREENS

This project proposes to install new trash screen protection devices on storm drain inlets to help eliminate debris, trash, leaves, etc. from entering the storm drain system. This project is currently out to bid with bids due on August 6, 2020. The bid information is available on [the City's Bids web page](#).

BLUFFS PARK WORKOUT STATION

This City is working on a new, public outdoor workout station at Malibu Bluffs Park. This project is currently out to bid with bids due on August 13, 2020. The bid information is available on [the City's Bids web page](#).

E-NOTIFICATIONS

The City maintains a robust [e-notification system](#) so the community can stay informed about all of the City's activities. Sign up to receive messages by text or email on the City's [e-notifications page](#).

FURTHER QUESTIONS

For questions or comments, contact the City Manager at RFeldman@MalibuCity.org.

[See Past City Manager Updates](#)