

CITY MANAGER UPDATES- AUGUST 7, 2020

UPCOMING

Monday, August 10, 6:30 PM - [Virtual City Council 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. Key updates from the [County's COVID-19 Dashboard](#), as of August 5, 2020 include the following:

- 83 confirmed cases and 2 deaths in the City of Malibu - an increase of 10 cases from July 30
- 197,912 confirmed cases and 4,825 deaths in LA County - an increase of 12,040 cases and 273 deaths from July 30
- 1,768 hospitalizations in LA County - a decrease of 254 from July 30

The City's Emergency Operations Center 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. In order to protect visitors and City staff, visitors are allowed in City Hall by appointment only.

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. You can find more information [on the 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.

Regional Vote Centers - There will be a limited number of 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. [Visit the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk website](#) to register or check your current registration.

2020 WILDFIRE SEASON PREPAREDNESS

The City's Public Safety staff are in full stride preparing for the upcoming fire season. Although fires can happen any time during the year, the most damaging fires occur in the fall and early winter when Santa Ana winds are blowing, and fuel moisture levels are low. City staff participated in a virtual exercise with regional response partners on Thursday, August 6 to begin coordinating communication and response actions. The exercise scenario focused on a fire in Topanga that was moving quickly toward Malibu. Some of the strategies that were discussed included directing evacuees west, utilizing Zuma as a temporary safe refuge, and deploying emergency generators to traffic signals if power is lost. Some of the action items from the exercise included working with the agency partners to draft emergency messaging templates that will be consistent across the region, developing a plan for managing a temporary safe refuge area at Zuma Beach, and conducting a public education campaign regarding the newly established evacuation zones. To compliment this exercise, City staff will participate in virtual Emergency Operations Center exercises to practice new procedures based on COVID-19 pandemic restraints.

Community preparedness events are being planned in September as part of National Preparedness Month. Events will include a series of webinars and community meetings using a virtual meeting platform. In addition, staff recently developed a weed whacker fire safety flyer that is available to community groups to distribute and/or post on community bulletin boards. [The flyer can be found in English](#) and Spanish on the City's [Wildfire and Fire Safety page](#).

2020 WILDFIRE SEASON: WILDFIRE AND FIRE SAFETY WEB PAGE

To help prepare for peak wildfire season, community members are encouraged to visit the City's [Wildfire and Fire Safety page](#) for ongoing information and resources. Topics included on the webpage include:

- Home Ignition Zone Assessments
- The Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- How to Create a Defensible Home
- How to Build an Action Plan
- Red Flag Warning and Fire Weather Watch
- Live Fuel Moisture
- House Fire Safety
- Weed Whacker Fire Safety

For more information about any of these topics, contact Fire Safety Liaison Jerry Vandermeulen at 310-456-2489, ext. 387 or JVandermeulen@malibucity.org, or FireSafety@malibucity.org.

2020 WILDFIRE SEASON: CURRENT LIVE FUEL MOISTURE

Tracking live fuel moisture (LFM) is an important part of maintaining situational awareness and determining critical fire danger and/or Red Flag Conditions. As of July 31, 2020, LFM was at 72%, which is down from 77% two weeks prior. At this time last year, LFM was at 78%. In the Santa Monica Mountains 60% live fuel moisture is considered critical.

LFM is defined as the percentage of water content to dry matter content in live vegetation. LFM can be as high as 200% and critical levels (60% or less) are usually reached by mid-October in a “normal” year. The Los Angeles County Fire Department Forestry Division conducts sampling approximately every two weeks and posts the results on their website. The full [Los Angeles County Live Fuel Moisture summary](#) and the current [Santa Monica Mountains Live Fuel Moisture graph](#) are available online.

2020 WILDFIRE SEASON: SIGN UP FOR ALERTS AND DISASTER NOTIFICATIONS

If you are not already signed up to receive alerts and disaster notifications, now is the time. Make sure all members of your family, business, or organization are signed up for emergency, weather and traffic alerts by text and email from the City. To sign up, visit [the E-notify web page](#) and scroll down to Alert Center. When there is an imminent threat to any part of our community, the City issues disaster notifications to the specific area that is being threatened. To sign up for the City’s Disaster Notification system, [visit the Disaster Notifications sign up portal](#). If the threat is widespread, the City can issue a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) which goes to all cell phones within the City. You do not need to be signed up for a WEA. For more information about all of the City’s different types of alerts, go to the City’s [Alerts and Emergency Notification Page](#).

2020 WILDFIRE SEASON: GET A DOLPHIN DECAL FOR RESIDENT-ONLY ROAD CLOSURES

Malibu’s Dolphin Decal vehicle identification program was established to assist emergency personnel in identifying residents and other individuals who need to access their homes and businesses during some types of emergencies. In the event of a resident-only road closure, the Dolphin Decal may expedite passage into the restricted area. When approaching a roadblock, all motorists will be checked for proof of residency or business in the Malibu area or to ensure they have a Dolphin Decal on their vehicle. This decal is used to assist in identification only and gives no special rights or privileges to the holder. Decals are non-transferable and non-refundable. There is no expiration date on the decals.

To get a Dolphin Decal, complete the application form available on the [City's website](#). Mail the completed form with a copy of a utility bill, driver's license, or other proof of residency along with a check for \$5 to: City of Malibu, 23825 Stuart Ranch Road, Malibu, CA 90265.

For more information, go to the City's [Dolphin Decal Program page](#) or call City Hall at 310-456-2489.

2020 WILDFIRE SEASON: EMERGENCY SURVIVAL GUIDE

The Malibu Emergency Survival Guide is now available. The guide 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. The City encourages 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. You can also [view the guide online or download it](#).

MALIBU REBUILDS STATISTICS

Since the Woolsey Fire, the Planning Department has approved approximately 553 applications of which 242 are for single-family residences. Based on those approvals, Building Safety has issued 129 permits for single-family dwellings and issued 12 permits for a 12-unit multi-family apartment complex. Seven 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 web page](#).

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](#). 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.

MALIBU REBUILDS DEADLINES

Residents are encouraged to submit their rebuild projects in order to meet upcoming deadlines:

- November 8 – Apply to rebuild non-conforming homes and structures without having to bring the structure into compliance or seek variances.
- December 30 – Obtain a complete Planning application by this date in order for eligible home-owners to receive fee waivers. All required building permits must be pulled by June 30, 2021.

For details about the fee waiver program and rebuild options, visit [the City's Rebuild page](#). The Fire Rebuild team is available for complimentary one-on-one consultations by contacting Aakash Shah at AShah@malibucity.org.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS - ZTA NO. 17-002 ORDINANCE

On Monday, June 22, City Council directed staff to bring back the “interim” ordinance presented to the City Council on December 3, 2019 establishing provisions to regulate the short-term rental of properties in the City. A Public Hearing will be held by the City Council on Monday, August 10, to consider this ordinance. [The agenda report and draft ordinance are posted online](#). This ordinance would be superseded by the regulations, including the requirement of an onsite host, reviewed by the Planning Commission on July 29 and scheduled to be considered by Council in September. For more information, visit the [Short-Term Rentals web page](#).

TEMPORARY RESTAURANT RECOVERY PROGRAM

Since Council's approval of the Temporary Restaurant Recovery Program, the Planning Department has processed 14 permits allowing local restaurants to temporarily expand their seating areas to adjacent common areas or sidewalks with physical distancing and other public health protocols in place to slow the spread of coronavirus. For more information about this program, [visit the project web page](#).

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. Next Week, on Wednesday, August 12, the California Coastal Commission will hold a virtual hearing on this item. Unless the Commission objects to the Executive Director's determination, the minor amendment will take effect automatically upon reporting to the Commission. The staff report is available on [the Coastal Commission website](#).

HOMELESS COUNT RESULTS

On January 22, 2020, more than two dozen community volunteers, City Public Safety staff, Sheriff's and State Parks personnel conducted the annual Point in Time Homeless Count in Malibu. During the count, participants tally the number of homeless they see on the street as well as the number of dwellings they see that appear to have people living in them. To determine the number of people in each type of dwelling that is counted, staff from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) conduct interviews with homeless individuals. This year's Homeless Count numbers are now posted [on the LAHSA website](#).

Malibu Homeless Count results:

- Persons on the street: 58
- Persons in cars: 54
- Persons in vans: 37
- Persons in RVs/campers: 42
- Persons in tents: 27
- Persons in makeshift shelters: 22
- **Total Homeless: 240**

The purpose of this federally mandated count provides data that will be extremely valuable to inform efforts to combat homelessness across Los Angeles County. It will help service providers, policy makers, local governments, elected officials and other stakeholders understand the geographic and demographic diversity of homelessness so that the types of services and housing provided are responsive to the need in the community. The data from the Homeless Count is important for tracking and measuring progress, adjusting programs and policy and monitoring progress towards combating homelessness. It will also be used to assist in the ongoing implementation of the City Malibu's Homelessness Strategic Plan. For more information, contact Public Safety Manager Susan Dueñas at sduenas@malibucity.org or 310-456-2489, ext. 313.

TRANCAS CREEK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Caltrans is proposing to replace the existing 96-year-old Trancas Creek on Pacific Coast Highway. 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 CEQA environmental document. On Friday, July 31, the Environmental Review Board reviewed and commented on the project. On September 8, the Planning Commission will hold a virtual public hearing to consider the project. The staff report will be available online prior to the meeting. To receive an e-notification regarding the availability of the agenda and report, go to the [notifications page](#) and subscribe to Agenda Center/Planning Commission. For more information, visit [the project web page](#).

COASTAL 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. Next Week, on Wednesday, August 12, the California Coastal Commission will hold a virtual hearing on this item. The staff report is available on [the Coastal Commission website](#).

PARKING MANAGEMENT PLAN - CORRAL BEACH AND ZUMA BEACH AREAS

On August 24, the City Council will hold a public hearing to update Ordinance 460 to implement parking restriction in the Corral Beach and Zuma Beach areas. A Coastal Development Permit would need to be processed prior to sign installation in these locations. The staff report will be available next week.

PARKING USE ZONING/LCP AMENDMENT

On August 6, the Council's Zoning Ordinance and Code Enforcement Subcommittee (ZORACES) discussed a proposed amendment to the zoning code and Local Coastal Program to allow stand-alone surface parking lots as a conditionally permitted use. Currently, parking lots are allowed in conjunction with another use but not as a stand-alone use. The ZORACES meeting was the City's first step in processing the amendment. The next steps include a hearing before the Planning Commission, adoption by the City Council, and certification by California Coastal Commission.

ONE CALL TO CITY HALL USE 800-395-9084

The City's One Call to City Hall service line is currently experiencing technical difficulties. Please dial **800-395-9084** to reach One Call to City Hall services while the City works to resolve this issue. The 800 number will be answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week for community members to report issues or contact City staff during non-business hours. For life-threatening emergencies, please call 911

AUGUST 15 - SHRED DAY AND E-WASTE DRIVE

On Saturday, August 15 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, the Malibu Lost Hills Sheriff's Station (27050 Agoura Rd, Calabasas) will be hosting a personal document destruction and electronic waste disposal event. For more information and learn what materials are being accepted, visit [the Environmental Program Calendar](#) or the [Malibu Lost Hills Sheriff's Station 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, August 3, a total of 12 passport agencies and centers are in phase one, and six 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. Visit the [Department of State website](#) to see its reopening plan and current international travel advisories.

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-September), California Friendly Landscaping and Turf Removal webinars (July -October), and recycling tips.

CHARMLEE WILDERNESS PARK TRAIL REPAIR

The contractor selected to complete trail repair work at Charmlee Park has made significant progress since beginning in early June. The contractor expects to complete Phases 1 and 2 of the work over the next four to six weeks, and the park is expected to reopen later this year. Charmlee Park sustained significant damage during the Woolsey Fire in 2018 and has been closed to the public since that time. For updates regarding the anticipated reopening of the park or to see photos of the trail repair progress, please visit our [Charmlee Wilderness Park web page](#).

VIRTUAL STUDENT ART EXHIBITIONS

Two virtual student art exhibitions, "Art Voyagers and Superheroes," launched on Friday, July 31. Art Voyagers features digital media designs and photography by the Malibu High School graduating class of 2020. Superheroes showcases Our Lady of Malibu School student artwork, inspired by each student's creative version of a superhero who contributes to making the world a better place. Both virtual art exhibitions are available for viewing through September 1.

[See the Art Voyagers exhibition.](#)

[See the Superheroes exhibition.](#)

MALIBU BLUFFS PARK AND SKATE PARK CLOSED

Due to current COVID-19 conditions, and to protect the health and safety of community members and City staff, Malibu Bluffs Park and the Temporary Skate Park are temporarily closed. Online reservations for the Temporary Skate Park have been suspended during the

closure. Please visit the [Community Services Department web page](#) for updates regarding the reopening of Malibu Bluffs Park and the Temporary Skate Park as they become available.

COMMUNITY POOL

The Community Swimming Pool at Malibu High School is open with limited programming and COVID-19 safety precautions. Swimmers may view available dates/times or register for the [SeaWolves Swim Program, Masters Swim, and Lap Swim online](#). Please note: Due to limited pool space, Lap Swim is only available by making a reservation through our online reservation system. No walk-ups are allowed.

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

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)

The County of Los Angeles 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 mid-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. The contractor has completed all pavement repairs, crack sealing, Asphalt Rubber Hot Mix (ARHM) overlay and slurry seal work. The contractor will be installing the new thermoplastic striping around mid-August.

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 their review. The City is expecting FEMA's review process to take until November 2020. More information is available on [the City's website](#).

Last week, FEMA informed the City that they will suspend processing any Flood Map revisions starting August 14, 2020. All applications for Flood Map revisions received prior to August 14, 2020 will be processed and completed. The City verified with FEMA that they have received our Flood Map revisions. FEMA is currently reviewing the City's Flood Map revisions and will not suspend this process.

TRANCAS CREEK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Caltrans is proposing to replace the existing 96-year-old, 85 foot-wide, 90 foot-long concrete bridge, built to span Trancas Creek on Pacific Coast Highway. The new concrete bridge will be 105 feet wide by 240 feet long. It 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 CEQA environmental document. On July 31, the Malibu Environmental Review Board reviewed the project and provided recommendations to the Planning Director. On September 8, the Planning Commission will hold a virtual public hearing to consider the project. The staff report will be available [online](#) prior to the meeting. To receive an e-notification regarding the availability of the

agenda and report, visit the [E-notify page](#) and subscribe to Agenda Center/Planning Commission. For more information, please visit the [project web page](#).

Along with this Caltrans' project, the City will be constructing a new dedicated westbound right turn lane a Pacific Coast Highway and Trancas Canyon Road. The proposed right turn lane will be approximately 430 feet and will accommodate right turns onto Trancas Canyon Road as well as traffic entering into the Trancas Market shopping center. The project will be funded by Measure R Highway Operational improvements.

Caltrans and City of Malibu hosted a public information meeting on July 15, 2020. A copy of the presentation can be found on the [project web 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. For more information, visit [the Bids web page](#).

BLUFFS PARK WORKOUT STATION

This project proposes to install a new work out station at Bluffs Park. This project is currently out to bid with bids due on August 13, 2020. For more information, visit [the Bids web page](#).