

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of the State of California  
California State Capitol, First Floor  
1303 Tenth Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

The City of Seal Beach is respectfully submitting the enclosed plan to reopen our beaches and associated facilities. Although we are in Orange County, to whom you directed your recent order, we hope you can agree that thus far our city has taken a very cautious approach in our efforts towards the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our city is unique in the large senior population that mostly resides in the gated community of Leisure World. In total, seniors account for over 40% of the City's population - we are aware of our responsibility to ensure our at-risk population is protected and have thus far taken every necessary step to do so. To briefly review our City's actions in response to COVID-19: on March 13, 2020 we proclaimed a local emergency; on March 16, 2020, based on your guidance, we closed all bars and limited restaurants to take out orders only; on March 23, 2020 we issued the closure of our beaches, our beach parking lots, and our beach amenities; and on April 10, 2020 we issued the requirement for all citizens to wear a face covering when interacting with essential employees. These decisions were not taken lightly and have been met with both support and opposition, but we understand the importance of protecting our community and are steadfast in our intentions to protect our citizens.

This week, and prior to your directive, our City Council and staff members worked diligently towards a phased reopening plan that we hoped to implement during sunrise on May 11, 2020. The first phase of our multi-phased approach would include limited public access, allowing a "beach in motion" only. This limited access would be restricted to daylight hours Monday-Thursday and for recreational use only, while also maintaining social distancing requirements. Beachgoers will not be allowed to access the beach for sunbathing or congregating, and umbrellas, blankets, coolers, easy-ups, tents, etc. will not be permitted for use. Beach parking lots and amenities will also remain closed. This phase, and the subsequent phases, are outlined in our attached plan.

We believe that this plan is a responsible and cautious approach to re-opening our beaches to the public, and maintains the social distancing directives you have put forth. We further wish to assure you that we are prepared to reinstitute any measures if the need arises to protect public safety.

We respectfully request that you approve our plan to reopen, in phases, at the earliest date so that the public can enjoy our beaches in a responsible and safe manner.

Sincerely,



Schelly Sustarsic  
Mayor of Seal Beach

cc: City Manager Jill Ingram  
Seal Beach City Council  
Senator Tom Umberg  
Assemblymember Tyler Diep  
Congressman Harley Rouda  
California Coastal Commission



*City of Seal Beach*

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Plan for Phased Reopening of  
City Beaches and Coastal Accessways

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## Introduction

Conditions of extreme peril to the health and safety of persons have arisen both internationally and within the United States, resulting from the introduction of the coronavirus (COVID-19), a novel communicable disease. On March 2, 2020, the Governor of California declared a State of Emergency in California. The Seal Beach City Council subsequently adopted an ordinance proclaiming a local emergency on March 13, 2020. The City also took prompt action to enact local measures to limit the spread of COVID-19. Such measures included the temporary closures of public areas where large numbers of individuals could congregate for non-essential purposes.

Most notably, on March 23, 2020, a local executive order temporarily closed City beaches to public use. Seal Beach has 1.5 miles of coastline from 1st Street through Surfside. This Order was issued pursuant to Seal Beach Municipal Code Section 3.25.020(a)(7).

The following areas were closed to the public:

- All Beaches including Surfside Beach
- Playgrounds/Tot Lot
- All City Parks amenities closed / green space open; including Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, Volleyball Courts, and Picnic Areas
- Arbor Dog Park
- Gum Grove Nature Park
- Edison Park Community Garden (restricted hours and access)
- Beach Parking Lots
- Seal Beach Pier
- Public Restrooms
- San Gabriel River Bike Path accessway from 1<sup>st</sup> St beach lot to Marina Dr

COVID-19 continues to threaten the health and safety of the public. However, the City is committed to exploring options to reopen public recreational areas, provided that said plans ensure safety, are consistent with public health guidelines, and do not impair the collective efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19. Reopening these amenities must not encourage large gatherings of people that cannot realistically maintain social distancing. On **April 27, 2020**, the Seal Beach City Council and City Staff took action to reopen beaches and ocean access on a restricted basis: Monday through Thursday during daylight hours, for active use only while maintaining social distancing, and on a trial basis, with authority given to promptly reclose those areas if the intended objectives were not achieved. This reopening is scheduled to occur on **May 11, 2020**.

In order to allow the public to safely enjoy the Seal Beach coastline, we recommend the State of California approve the City of Seal Beach's phased plan for reopening beach and ocean access.

## Phased Reopening of Coastal Accesses

Phase	Beach Hours	Days of the Week	Allowed Use
Phase One	Daylight Hours	Monday – Thursday	Active Use Only
Phase Two	Daylight Hours	Weekdays & Weekends	Active Use Only
Phase Three	Regular Hours	Weekdays & Weekends	Active Use Only
Phase Four	Regular Hours	Weekdays & Weekends	Active and Passive Use

*Table 1 Summary of Phases*

Table One summarizes a four-phased implementation strategy to safely and responsibly reopen the City’s beaches and ocean accessways. The “Beach Hours” column highlights the hours that the beach would be open for public use. The “Days of the Week” column summarizes which days City beaches would be open to the public. Lastly, the “Allowed Use” column identifies the type of beach use permitted during the specific phase.

### Adaptive Management Plan

This is an adaptive management plan and each phase will be enacted on a trial basis. The City will advance to the next phase, only if it believes the activities can be managed to comply with the then-current directives regarding social distancing and large gatherings. If it is determined that a phase is encouraging large gatherings or creating an environment whereby social distancing cannot be maintained, the City will reassess and consider reverting to a previous phase that corresponds with the current public health guidelines or closing the beach until compliance can be attained.

### PHASE ONE

Effective Date: Monday, **May 11, 2020**

Beach Hours Open to the Public: Limited Hours – Daylight Hours

Days of Week Open to the Public: Limited to Monday through Thursday only. The beaches and ocean accessways will be closed on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Allowed Use: Active Use Only

- Social distancing requirements will remain in place.
- Open beaches and ocean to **active recreation** (walking, running, swimming, surfing, paddle boarding, skimboarding, kayaking, fishing, kiteboarding etc.)
- Beaches and ocean closed to passive games, loitering, sunbathing, and gatherings of any kind, including stopping, standing, sitting, or lying down.
- Parking with a vessel trailer/rack in boat launch lots only (Sunset Aquatic Park).

Management Plan:

- Beach amenities and playgrounds will remain closed to the public.
- Coastal parking lots to remain closed. If necessary, coastal street parking closures will be used to assist with limiting crowds.
- Increased lifeguard and police department staffing for observation, education and rescues in anticipation of reopening.
- Post educational signage for the public (Exhibit B).

PHASE TWO

Effective Date: TBD and dependent on Phase One success

Beach Hours Open to the Public: Limited Hours – Daylight Hours

Days of Week Open to the Public: Beaches and ocean accessways will be open to the public seven days per week; however, hours open will remain during daylight hours.

Allowed Use: Active Use Only

- Phase One uses to remain in effect.

Management Plan

- Phase One management plan to remain in effect.

PHASE THREE

Effective Date: TBD and dependent on BOTH Phase One and Phase Two success

Beach Hours Open to the Public: Regular municipal hours. Per Seal Beach Municipal Code (SBMC) 7.20.050, posted signs designate that beaches shall be closed between the hours of 10 p.m. and dawn.

Days of Week Open to the Public: Beaches and ocean accessways will be open to the public seven days per week.

Allowed Use: Active Use Only

- Phase One uses to remain in effect.

Management Plan

- Phase One management plan to remain in effect.
- Additional staffing for both Lifeguard and Police Department's will be deployed for weekend days.

## PHASE FOUR

Phase Four would be enacted in conjunction with a State order that lifts the restriction of large gatherings. This phase represents a “return to normal” mode whereby active and passive activities would be permitted on the beach.

Effective Date: TBD and dependent on Phase One, Phase Two and Phase Three success

Beach Hours Open to the Public: Regular municipal hours. Per Seal Beach Municipal Code (SBMC) 7.20.050, posted signs designate that beaches shall be closed between the hours of 10 p.m. and dawn.

Days of Week Open to the Public: Beaches and ocean accessways will be open to the public seven days per week.

Allowed Use: All Use

- Open beaches and ocean to active recreation (walking, running, swimming, surfing, paddle boarding, skimboarding, kayaking, etc.) and passive games, loitering, sunbathing, and gatherings of any kind, including stopping, standing, sitting, or lying down.

Management Plan

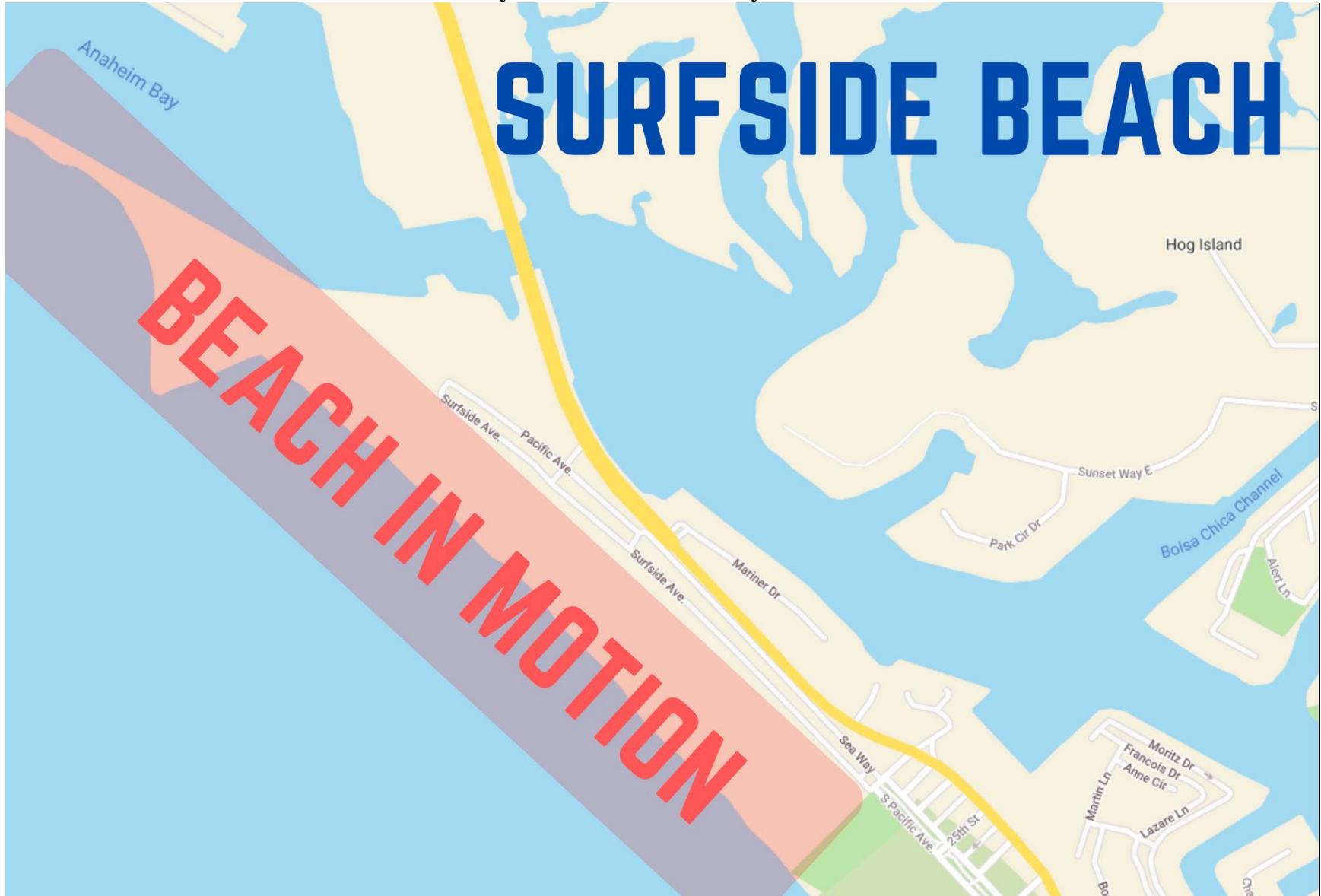
- Allow gatherings in compliance with federal, state, and local government orders and guidance.
- Eliminate parking restrictions.
- Enforce CDC and government guidelines.
- Open parks and playgrounds adjacent to beaches.
- Open the pier.



**Exhibit A – City Beaches within the City Limits of Seal Beach**



Exhibit A – City Beaches within the City Limits of Seal Beach



# BEACH IN MOTION

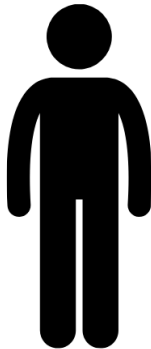
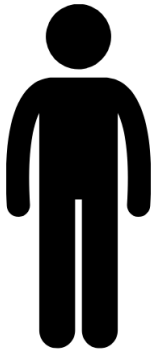
## ACTIVE RECREATION ONLY



**NO STANDING, STOPPING,  
SITTING, LYING DOWN,  
COOLERS, CHAIRS,  
UMBRELLAS/SUNSHADES,  
TOYS, BLANKETS, GAMES  
OF SPORT, OR ANY  
GATHERINGS**



**IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS, PLEASE  
MAINTAIN A PHYSICAL DISTANCE OF AT LEAST SIX FEET AT ALL TIMES**



**THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY IS A HIGH PRIORITY.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME.**



**PLEASE CALL THE CITY OF SEAL BEACH MARINE SAFETY DEPARTMENT  
WITH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS AT (562) 430-2613.**

# BEACH IN MOTION



**NO STANDING, STOPPING, SITTING,  
LYING DOWN, COOLERS, CHAIRS,  
UMBRELLAS/SUNSHADES, TOYS,  
BLANKETS, GAMES OF SPORT, OR ANY  
GATHERINGS**



## ATTENTION BEACH USERS

- IF YOU HAVE A FEVER OR COUGH, PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE BEACH
- EXERCISE ALONE, UNLESS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD
- MAINTAIN SIX FEET DISTANCE FROM OTHERS AT ALL TIMES
- PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE AND WASH HANDS FREQUENTLY
- FACE COVERINGS ARE RECOMMENDED

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