



April 30, 2020

Will O'Neill, Mayor
Brad Avery, Mayor Pro Tem
Diane Dixon, Council Member
Duffy Duffield, Council Member
Kevin Muldoon, Council Member
Jeff Herdman, Council Member
Joy Brenner, Council Member
Newport Beach City Council
100 Civic Center Drive
Newport Beach, CA 92660

City Council Members:

Thank you for your ongoing leadership protecting Orange County communities amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Governor's March 19, 2020 Executive Order EO-N-33 directs all residents to heed current State public health directives to preserve public health and safety. Current State public health directives prohibit gatherings of any size and direct residents to stay home unless participating in essential workforce activities or authorized necessary activities. As explained [here](#), among other things: "Californians can walk, run, hike and bike in their local neighborhoods as long as they continue to practice social distancing of 6 feet." These restrictions are in place and are necessary to protect all Californians from the spread of COVID-19.

Last weekend, state and local beaches in Orange County experienced exceptionally heavy visitation that generated a high concentration of beach visitors in close physical proximity. State public health leadership reviewed conditions on these beaches and determined that this beach visitation created unsafe conditions. These conditions threaten the health of both beach visitors and community members who did not visit the beach but are threatened by worsening spread of the virus, including first responders and health care providers.

In response, our State Department of Parks and Recreation is shifting to full closure of all Orange County State Beaches on a temporary basis. These beach

closures will take effect tomorrow morning, May 1. Additionally, beaches operated by local governments in Orange County are directed to institute full closure starting tomorrow, May 1, to restrict the gathering of visitors that create unsafe conditions. Full closure means that there is no public access to these beaches on a temporary basis to protect public health. All restrooms are closed, and there are no parking facilities open for visitors, or recreational boats. No activities are permitted on the beach (including sunbathing, walking or running or watersports).

We understand that many Californians are eager to spend time and recreate outdoors given the public health crisis necessitating the state's Stay-at-Home Order. We continue to encourage residents to spend time outdoors in their neighborhoods and local parks that remain open for activities while maintaining safe physical distance. Additionally, we are hopeful and confident that we can collaborate with local Orange County leaders to identify measures that can restore safe beach access as soon as possible. But until such time as those measures are in place, this additional step to preserve public health and safety has proven essential.

This is a critical moment in California's battle against COVID-19, and Californians have stepped up to limit the spread of the virus. Temporary beach closures in Orange County will help to ensure continued progress on limiting spread of the virus, which will expedite our process to restore important activities within our economy and communities.

Thank you very much for your ongoing collaboration and leadership during this critical time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark S. Ghilarducci", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MARK S. GHILARDUCCI
Director, Governor's Office of Emergency Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wade Crowfoot", written in a bold, stylized cursive script.

WADE CROWFOOT
Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency

cc: Don Barnes, Orange County Sheriff-Coroner
Kirsten Monteleone, Dana Point Chief of Police
Robert Handy, Huntington Beach Chief of Police
Laura Farinella, Laguna Beach Chief of Police
Jon T. Lewis, Newport Beach Chief of Police
Edward Manhart, San Clemente Chief of Police
Philip L. Gonshak, Seal Beach Chief of Police
Senator Patricia Bates
Senator John Moorlach
Senator Tom Umberg
Assemblymember William Brough
Assemblymember Cottie Petrie Norris
California Coastal Commission



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR



MARK S. GHILARDUCCI
DIRECTOR