



The Week in Review

City Manager Grace K. Leung
March 13, 2020

The last few days and weeks have been difficult and challenging for all of us as we assess and process the fast-changing news on the global spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). Please know that the City Council and staff are monitoring the situation closely, preparing and doing all we can to help slow the transmission of the virus, in close cooperation with our local, state and federal public health partners. We took several important steps this week to align Newport Beach with recommendations and guidelines from the California Department of Public Health, as discussed below. We will continue to adjust our practices accordingly as public health authorities learn more about the virus. The City's top concern is the health and safety of our residents, visitors and employees. City Council members and City staff urge you to be prepared and cautious, but not to panic, as we continue to monitor the public health effects of the virus and do all we can, as a community, to slow and eventually stop the spread of COVID-19.

Upcoming Events

March 16

Board of Library Trustees Meeting

Balboa Branch Library
100 East Balboa Boulevard
5 p.m.

Thursday, March 19 Planning Commission Meeting

City Hall, City Council Chambers
100 Civic Center Drive
6:30 p.m.

City Postpones or Cancels Public Gatherings in Accordance with State Recommendations

The City has postponed several large public gatherings and will postpone or cancel other, smaller gatherings following today's release of [Guidelines from the California Department of Public Health](#) aimed at slowing the transmission of COVID-19 (coronavirus). These include upcoming, City-sponsored community events where 250 people or more were expected to attend. To reduce potential exposure among high-risk individuals as described and recommended by the California Department of Public Health guidelines, the OASIS Senior Center facility is closed from today, March 13, through Friday, April 3. Meal delivery will continue, as will transportation services for essential needs such as medical appointments and grocery shopping. All indoor recreation classes are cancelled through the end of the winter class session, which was set to conclude at the end of March. Certain library events have been cancelled or postponed. [Please click here for more information.](#)

Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Update

City staff attended the Southern California Association of Government (SCAG) Community, Economic, and Human Development (CEHD) Committee meeting and the SCAG

Visit the City's website for a complete listing of meetings and events at newportbeachca.gov/events.

Regional Council meeting on March 5, 2020. The Committee discussed the final refined RHNA allocation methodology. As a reminder, this methodology results in 4,832 new housing units of varied income levels for Newport Beach and impacts the entire region with a requirement of over 170,000 new housing units in Orange County.

City staff was one of several representatives of local jurisdictions to provide oral public comment about frustration with the overall process in developing the methodology and stating support for a compromise put forward by the City of Cerritos. This compromise would add back in some level of local input to the equation. Many believe this is an important consideration, as each jurisdiction has varied constraints and challenges that are essentially ignored when local input is removed. The CEHD Committee deliberated for over two hours and voted 25-14 to recommend that the Regional Council postpone the vote on a final methodology in order to explore a new alternative proposed by a private citizen.

Despite the showing of support for the alternative methodology and the recommendation from the CEHD Committee, SCAG staff still expressed legal concerns with deviating from the current final methodology, which received concurrence from the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). An HCD representative was also in attendance at both meetings to provide public comment and to address questions from the CEHD Committee and the Regional Council. In both meetings, this representative was very clear that the current HCD-approved methodology was barely enough for HCD to concur it meets the five statutory objectives of the RHNA allocations.

After a lengthy public comment, Regional Council discussion and two substitute motions, the Regional Council voted 41-23 to move staff's recommendation and approve the final RHNA methodology. If you are interested in learning more about SCAG and its RHNA process, please visit www.scag.ca.gov/programs/pages/housing. The next step will be the appeals process where jurisdictions will have the ability to file an appeal of their individual allocations or those of another jurisdiction.

The City continues to firmly challenge, yet plans to comply with the RHNA allocation and State law. For the latest on the City's efforts, check out the 2020 Housing Action Plan webpage at www.newportbeachca.gov/housingactionplan.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Update

The City held a community meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at Marina Park Community Center to solicit public comments regarding the short- and long-term needs of the community and how federal CDBG program funds should be used to meet those needs over the next five years. Attendees were provided a brief overview of the CDBG program, and asked for their input regarding how future funds should be allocated within the City.

A public hearing to solicit additional public comments will be held at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at 7 p.m., in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660. Residents and stakeholders not able to attend the hearing are encouraged to participate by completing the Resident Survey online at <http://bit.ly/NewportBeachResident>. Paper copies of the survey are available at City Hall from the Community Development Department, during normal business hours. Surveys will be accepted until the end of the day on Friday, March 27, 2020.

The application period for the fiscal year 2020-21 CDBG funding cycle closed on Friday, February 21, 2020, and the City received five applications requesting funding under the public services portion of the grant. The applications are being evaluated and funding recommendations will be included in the forthcoming 2020-21 Action Plan.

Additional information about the CDBG Program can be found on the City's [website](#).

Homeless Update

Success Stories: City Net, the City's contracted social services provider, continues to assist people with accessing and navigating resources in the community. Their outreach efforts,

coordinated with the City's and County's resources, provide housing, health care and other opportunities for people experiencing homelessness in the community.

Last week, City Net case managers connected several people experiencing homelessness to appropriate social services agencies in Orange County, including:

- Completed Vulnerability Index Assessments (VI-SPDAT) with two men who had been resistant to assistance. The City Net team repeatedly engaged with the men near the Newport Pier in attempts to provide services. City Net utilizes the Vulnerability Index intake assessment to screen clients on a number of factors to determine proper placement in the County's Continuum of Care system. Some factors include age, health issues, and length of time being unsheltered.
- Responded to a hotline call about people staying along Hospital Road and Newport Boulevard after being discharged from Hoag Hospital. The City Net outreach team made contact with the people and referred them to local services. The City Net hotline number is (714) 451-6198. Those who call the hotline may leave a detailed voicemail message for themselves or others in need and City Net staff will respond within 48 hours. If immediate assistance is needed, people are advised to call the County's Crisis Prevention Hotline at (877) 7-CRISIS or (877) 727-4747.
- Conducted outreach with men staying under the bridge near Lido Island. The City's Homeless Liaison Officer and City Net staff engaged with the men and ensured they were complying with local laws. The men refused services during this initial contact. City Net staff will follow up in the coming days.
- Connected the CalOptima team with a woman who spends her days at the Newport Transportation Center. City Net staff provided medical assistance and a general welfare check. CalOptima was created by the Orange County Board of Supervisors in 1993 as a County Organized Health System (COHS). CalOptima is a public agency and the largest of six COHS in California. Community members may contact CalOptima at (714) 246-8400.
- Provided transportation for a recently housed man to and from an outpatient surgery appointment. The man is recuperating in his new apartment in Irvine.
- Re-referred a Veteran back to The Courtyard shelter in Santa Ana while he awaits a Veteran's Assistance voucher. The Courtyard shelter, operated by the Midnight Mission, provides temporary shelter where people can stabilize and enter case management. The shelter uses a referral system in coordination with City Net and police departments in the County.

Last week, Orange County agencies and case managers collaborated to house five veterans and their families in supportive housing throughout the region. Weekly meetings, comprised of case managers, housing providers, and shelter staff, provide a forum to match veterans to appropriate housing opportunities. Discussions include assessing factors such as household budgets and unit accessibility to ensure a successful placement.

Grunion Season is Here!

With the first full moon of the grunion season occurring this week here come the grunion. California grunion come ashore to spawn from March through August during the nightly high tides and within a couple of hours afterwards. They surf the waves onto sandy beaches during full and new moons, where they bury and fertilize their eggs in the sand. Then the grunions ride the next set of waves back out to sea.

The full schedule and grunion fishing laws are posted at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife website at www.wildlife.ca.gov.

Grunions are easily startled by human beach activity, so it is advisable to remain quiet while awaiting their arrival.

Grunion season presents our Beach Maintenance Crew with the opportunity to clean the beaches manually without utilizing machinery below the tideline where the grunion lay their eggs. Large debris such as poles, logs, and plywood that wash up onshore from the Santa Ana River and San Diego Creek are picked up manually to maintain the beaches.

