May 20, 2021

**Governor Gavin Newsom Signs SB7: Environmental Quality: Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act of 2021**

On May 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom joined Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins and other leaders signed legislation that will expedite affordable housing and other developments, creating good jobs and boosting the state’s economic recovery. SB7 Environmental Quality: Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act of 2021 passed the state Senate in March 2021 and the Assembly on May 10, 2021.

Senate Bill 7 changes zoning to allow for more dense housing and expedites the state’s environmental review process. It seeks to help address our state’s affordable housing crisis by extending and expanding provisions of a CEQA streamlining statute known as "AB 900," which reduces paperwork and expedites legal challenges to large, multi-benefit housing, energy, and manufacturing projects. SB7 extends the 2021 'sunset' of AB 900 through the end of the year 2025 for the larger projects covered under the prior law. But it also expands the law to apply streamlining to much smaller housing projects, lowering the threshold of qualifying projects to $15 million, an 85% reduction in required investment over the prior law. These housing projects are required to have at least 15% affordable housing, to be infill projects, and to meet "skilled and trained" labor requirements and elevated environmental standards. SB7 does not affect CEQA mitigation or limit legal challenges under CEQA.

The signing event took place at the site of Google’s planned Downtown West development near Diridon Station in downtown San Jose. The project includes more than 4,000 homes, about a quarter of which will be rent restricted or affordable units and is estimated to create 5,700 prevailing wage construction jobs.

To view the Facebook Live event, please click [HERE](https://www.facebook.com/live/).


Reminder: The City of Long Beach Permit Center is Open for Limited In-Person Services for Customers

The Long Beach Development Permit Center, located on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, is now open for limited in-person services by appointment only for Express Permits related to minor construction projects. Same-day appointments can be scheduled when available (walk-ins without appointments will not be allowed).

In-person appointments may be scheduled Monday through Friday, from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

For detailed information and to book an appointment, visit: longbeach.gov/permits.

Restaurant Revitalization Fund

The American Rescue Plan Act established the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) to provide funding to help restaurants and other eligible businesses keep their doors open. This program will provide restaurants with funding equal to their pandemic-related revenue loss up to $10 million per business and no more than $5 million per physical location.

Recipients are not required to repay the funding as long as funds are used for eligible uses no later than March 11, 2023.

Who can apply?

- Restaurants
- Food stands, food trucks, food carts
- Caterers
- Bars, saloons, lounges, taverns
- Snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars
- Bakeries (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts)
- Brewpubs, tasting rooms, taprooms (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts)
- Breweries and/or microbreweries (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts)
- Wineries and distilleries (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts)
- Inns (onsite sales of food and beverage to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts)
- Licensed facilities or premises of a beverage alcohol producer where the public may taste, sample, or purchase products

Applications are open. Please click HERE to apply.

For more information, please click HERE.

**Extension of the Open Streets Program**

The City Council voted unanimously at its Tuesday, May 18th meeting to extend the open street program, which was set to expire June 30th, for another three months, and to begin creating a process for some parklets to remain permanently. The goal of this program is to temporarily transform public areas into safe spaces for physically distanced activities.

The extension will allow some street closures and most parklets to remain in place through September 30th. This will create more economic opportunities for businesses to recover from business closures because of the pandemic. One exception of this extension is the ability for businesses to keep permits allowing them to set up tents in parking lots for outdoor service.

For more information, please click HERE.
As the pandemic seems to be on the decline in the United States, the State of California is expected to fully reopen on June 15. Vaccines availability seems to be accelerating this process as more people are becoming immune to the virus. Businesses and other services have started to reopen across the county.

This month, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control stated that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can safely stop wearing face coverings in most indoor and outdoor situations. However, both LA County and the City of Long Beach will adhere to California guidelines and wait until June 15 to lift the requirement for face coverings in indoor settings and crowded outdoor settings for people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Face Mask Regulations for Long Beach and LA County:

- For fully vaccinated persons, face coverings are not required outdoors except when attending crowded outdoor events, such as live performances, parades, fairs, festivals, sports events, or other similar settings.
- For unvaccinated persons, face coverings are required outdoors any time physical distancing cannot be maintained, including when attending crowded outdoor events, such as live performances, parades, fairs, festivals, sports events, or other similar settings.
- In indoor settings outside of one’s home, including public transportation, face coverings continue to be required regardless of vaccination status, except as outlined below.
- Visit, without wearing masks or physical distancing, with other fully vaccinated people in indoor or outdoor settings; and
- Visit, without wearing masks or physical distancing, with unvaccinated people (including children) from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease in indoor and outdoor settings

For more information, please click HERE.
Industry Links

Long Beach City Council moves forward with plan to redevelop 437 acres near airport

189-unit residential project underway on the Promenade

Long Beach will allow many parklets created during COVID-19 to remain permanently

Plan for walking path along San Gabriel River moves forward

For more information, please contact Sergio Ramirez, Deputy Director, Economic Development Department, at sergio.ramirez@longbeach.gov.