



CITY OF DEL REY OAKS

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Friends,

Our community continues to shine! Friendly waves during walks while socially distancing, respectful and collegial discussions during zoom meetings of City Council, Fireside Chats with the Mayor or Coffee with the City Manager. Thank you for the positive example each of you are setting during this challenging time.

As we approach 45 days of shelter in place your City staff continue to appreciate your commitment to our collective well-being. I am thankful to report that our Police Department and Public Works have not suffered infection from the virus while continuing to work in the community, keeping all of us safe and maintaining our infrastructure. The County reports 206 positive cases and 5 fatalities due to the virus as of today. Effective today masks are required in public unless exercising. We are anticipating an update to the shelter in place order soon from the County. The most current and accurate official sources of information continue to be the City and County web sites, so please check in periodically for the latest updates.

The County continues to work on Alternate Care and Alternate Housing sites. The Monterey Fairgrounds will serve as one of the Alternate Housing locations. The County held a tour of the location this morning to help all understand the measures being taken to house people there temporarily during the emergency period.

Your City Council met virtually Tuesday evening and accomplished a great deal for our community. Twenty members of the public joined us for a great exchange on important issues. Mayor Kerr read a proclamation recognizing Arbor Day, including The City earning the designation of Tree City U.S.A., and a proclamation recognizing National Teach Appreciation Week, as our teachers continue to educate their students during the pandemic. Council approved a resolution that will allow staff to apply for a \$65,000 State grant to support land use planning, including a Housing Element update. The Council unanimously approved a resolution to approve the Fort Ord Recreational Trail and Greenway Master Agreement. A vital step in moving this project forward in our City and securing over \$10 million in State grant funding to design and build it. Council appointed Denise Wood to the Planning Commission. Welcome Commissioner Wood! Council, staff and the public had a robust and very productive discussion about the City's sign ordinance update. The ordinance will be on the May Council agenda for a first reading based on the changes directed by Council. The Council received a report on the City's financial status resulting from the pandemic. The City stands to lose or see deferred approximately \$350,000 dollars in revenue from March through June. Staff is reducing payroll and operating expenses by approximately \$200,000 and deferring \$330,000 in Capital Projects for a total cost savings and deferral of \$530,000. This assessment includes a decision by Council to grant deferral of cannabis tax payment to businesses in good standing during the emergency period. An impressive set of work accomplishments even during normal times! Thank you to staff and our City Council for the hard work.

A reminder that if you want to submit a comment letter to the Airport District about the Environmental Assessment for their Safety Enhancement Project the deadline is tomorrow May 1st at noon. The City is finalizing its comment letter for signature by the Mayor and submission.

I am so enjoying getting to know so many of you, even if from a distance or by video. Your small staff is proud to serve this tremendous community and our City Council.

Thank you,
Dino