

California

Southern California Contractors Association (3/23/20) - Caltrans is extending “work window time allotment” on an individual job-to-job evaluation. It looks like this will include maintenance and construction statewide including all 12 Caltrans Districts. This is being done jointly through Traffic Operations and Construction.

(3/20/20) – “The California State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health is ordering all individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence, except as needed to maintain continuity of operation of the federal critical infrastructure sectors, critical government services, schools, childcare, and construction, including housing construction.

“This important clarification allows our industry to continue working on critical infrastructure improvements, including roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, and housing.

“If your firm has been working under a county Shelter in Place Order, there is no change in your operating guidelines. If your county / geographic area was not previously covered by a Shelter in Place Order, then this new definition applies. We are working with the Administration to determine which ordinance applies if you are operating in a county with a stricter definition than the one issued by the Governor.”

(3/18/20) – Public works is considered essential infrastructure at this time, including streets/roads, utility, water, etc. San Francisco’s parameters (see below) are similar to how some counties are addressing the “essential” nature of the work.

Some Caltrans Districts (including District 4 - Bay Area) have shut down offices due to health concerns. It is unclear how telework is being implemented. Industry is seeing issues with payments and testing. The chapter is working with legal counsel to address them. Some supply chain issues may also be emerging. CalTrans is allowing for working days for any contractor who faces a workforce or materials delay due to Coronavirus.

Regarding Coronavirus protocol in the field, personnel are to remain at least six feet apart (social distancing) and use all health precautions and safety equipment. If they cannot remain six feet apart, then they are urged to use all other precautions. The chapter is urging daily safety briefings/tailgate topics on Coronavirus safety. At this time the chapter is exploring a



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number of issues which relate to HIPAA and/or union rules, including the potential precaution of taking employees' temperature on the job site.

(3/18/20) While the city and county are under a shelter in place order, San Francisco Public Works issued a directive to contractors on "Essential Infrastructure Public Works Projects," which reads in part...

"Compliance with the Social Distancing Requirements is a means and methods issue under control of your firm. We expect that you, as the prime contractor, will maintain a safe working environment at the job site..."

"We consider your work an essential activity and expect work to continue. The City is not directing you to suspend work. This applies to all public works projects."

Southern California Contractors Association (3/18/20) – "Caltrans Update: Caltrans has responded to our inquiries noting that they will not close jobs but will provide time delay impacts per the below directive to agency personnel. CalTrans is reporting that it is business as usual. They are prepared to have key departments and individuals work remotely if the Governor decides to shut down their offices. All payments will be processed, and jobs will still be bid. CalTrans has suggested that, with the reduced traffic, we should take advantage of extended lane closures, saving both time and money."

"Los Angeles County Update: The following information is provided by the L.A. County Public Works office. Los Angeles County Public Works is making payments to their contractors a top priority so there should be no issues with payments. It is also being reported that, at this time, there is no problem in the supply chain. Steel, concrete, asphalt, and other supplies remain."